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THE NEWSPAPER FOR SITTINGBOURNE, ISLE OF SHEPPEY, FAVERSHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 85  
Available from Wednesday,  
April 29, 2009

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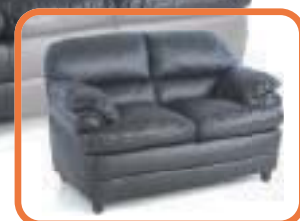
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## KENT POKER CUP - THIS WEEKEND

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# OPEN-AIR MYSTERY PLAY REVIVAL PLAN

## WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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**GOOD BUOY:** Ken Rowles has set up a TV station for boating enthusiasts, search 'Rowles'

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Chris Maclean says Faversham could reap a tourism bonanza from reviving open-air mystery plays, as staged in medieval times (inset left)

■ BY NICK AMES

AMBITIOUS plans to turn the medieval heart of the town into a theatrical backdrop have been put forward by a local businessman.

Chris Maclean, who runs the Railway Hotel in Preston Street, wants to stage traditional mystery plays which explore Biblical themes at different locations throughout the town.

He has put his idea to Faversham councillors to gauge the level of support for the idea, which would be unlike anything attempted elsewhere in Kent.

One town which has tried something similar is Stratford-upon-Avon – the birthplace of Shakespeare – where the productions bring in thousands of visitors.

Other outdoor plays have been staged in the streets of Chester, Wakefield and York.

Mr Maclean emphasised his idea was still in the early stages and would need the backing of all sections of the community. But he said the benefits to the town's economy would be enormous.

"Faversham is an ideal location for such a production," he said. "I don't think anywhere in Kent could equal it. We have one of the best medieval town centres in the country and this would be a way of attracting more visitors and giving them the chance to enjoy it."

Mystery plays are a traditional form of theatre which date back to the Middle Ages.

They explore stories from the Bible, either the Old or New Testaments or a combination of both.

Instead of being staged in a theatre they are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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#### TOP TV CLIPS



**1** Having fun with nature is child's play in Challock. Search 'King's Wood' on the community channel



**2** Film producer's new TV station for boating enthusiasts. Search 'afloat' on the community channel



**3** Musician Richard J Lewis at Folkestone's Quarterhouse. Search 'Lewis' on the community channel

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

EDITOR: Chris Britcher 01303 817171  
GROUP EDITOR: Gary Wright 01303 817032  
WEBSITE: www.yoursware.co.uk  
TELEPHONE ADVERTISING: 01303 817110  
FAX: (Advertising) 01303 817002

EMAIL: Editorial: yoursware@kosmedia.co.uk. Sales: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk  
HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR  
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# Mavericks test our mettle with grid iron thrashing

■ BY NICK AMES

AMERICAN football came to Faversham at the weekend when the East Kent Mavericks played their second game of the season – and won 21-0.

The recreation ground was marked out for 'grid iron' so the Mavericks could take on the Essex Spartans and their youth team could tackle the Farnham Knights.

The adult outfit is one of the South East's newest teams, starting just three years ago.

They've since managed to make it into division two of the British American Football League and last season narrowly missed out on promotion. The youth team was formed a year ago and is playing its first full season this year.

East Kent Mavericks have several Swale lads in the ranks, including Faversham rugby players Dave Jenkinson and Luke Garnham, as



FACE-OFF: East Kent Mavericks went eye-to-eye with their Essex opponents at the rec

well as six local players on the youth team including Marcus Dukes and Martin Jenkinson.

The adult team also benefits from the defence tactics of Great British American football player Dudley Ross. Graeme Tuff of Swale council said: "We are happy to welcome the East Kent Mavericks to the borough."

"We thought this would be a great opportunity to bring a different sport

to the area and offer residents the chance to experience the game. We are hoping this will encourage new generations to get involved in sport."

Glenn Lindley, East Kent Mavericks' chairman, said: "We are encouraging fans to get involved."

"Anyone who is interested in the sport or just wants to see what it's all about is more than welcome to come along."

## Twitter is helping council keep the borough briefed

SWALE council has launched its own page on social networking site Twitter to provide information about services.

Twitter is a micro-blogging service where members can post up to 140 characters in small messages, called tweets, which are then displayed on their profile page.

Other members can follow these pages and keep up-to-date with information, friends or organisations. Twitter boasts celebrity fans such as Britney Spears, Stephen Fry and Jonathan Ross. The address is twitter.com/SwaleCouncil or click on the Twitter link on the council's website: www.swale.gov.uk.

Swale council will be using its Twitter page to post breaking news, provide information about events such as Faversham Hop Festival, Sky

Sheppey and the Sittingbourne Spectacular. It will also be a link to public consultations and give new and updated information about services and link to agendas and minutes for meetings.

Communications officer Jason Wignall, said: "We are always keen to keep in touch through our Voice for Swale panel, the website and the magazine Inside Swale."

"Now by using Twitter we are hoping to engage with those who prefer to receive information via the internet as well as a new generation of residents who use social networking sites."

"The launch of our Twitter page coincides with updates and changes the council's website. By keeping up to date with technology we are hoping to improve communication."

## Trouble is brewing ...

BEER wars have broken out as Faversham's Shepherd Neame looks for a piece of the action in Sussex.

The brewer is selling an ale at its Hastings pubs called Jack in the Green, to mark the local festival of the same name. But drinkers are being urged to stick to locally brewed Harvey's. A Sheps spokesman said: "I don't see the problem. If a drinker in our pubs wasn't sampling this beer they'd be drinking Spitfire. They wouldn't be drinking Harvey's."

## The age of activity

AGE Concern is offering a range of activities for the over-50s.

Events at the Alexander Centre in Faversham include Tai Chi, circuit training sessions and walking groups.

Sessions on cooking will include advice on nutrition and food preparation. Tea dances with live music and a comedy film club complete the programme.



## Open Day

Wednesday 29 April 2pm-8pm

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# Atom test veteran dies before claims decision

■ BY NICK AMES

A NUCLEAR test veteran who campaigned for compensation from the Government has died before learning whether claims can go ahead.

Former Royal Marine Herbert Tomlin, who lived in Sherwood Close, Faversham, was convinced his ill health was caused by exposure to radiation during the 1950s when he was stationed in the Pacific.

He was one of a group who was trying to obtain compensation from the Ministry of Defence. The High Court is set to rule soon on whether claims can go ahead.

Mr Tomlin's family have asked for a post-mortem examination to be carried out in order to back up the veterans' case for damages.

In 1976 he was diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, a severe lung disease.

Many hydrogen bombs were tested in the South Pacific in the 1950s and 1960s and about 12,000 servicemen and 1,000 civilians are thought to have witnessed the explosions carried out by the British and US governments off Christmas Island.

According to the campaigners thousands of those involved have since developed cancer and many more have suffered other health problems or had children with genetic abnormalities. This is detailed in a writ issued by London-based Rosenblatt Solicitors.

Before his death, Mr Tomlin spoke to the BBC



**TESTING TIMES:** Thousands of British servicemen – including Herbert Tomlin – witnessed nuclear blasts in the Pacific

about his experiences while in the forces.

He said: "I took it in my stride at the time, but I was a bit suspect with regards to the amount of protection we had, which was virtually nil."

He said he was stationed on Christmas Island for a year from 1958 to 1959 and was given cotton gloves and balaclava to wear during atomic and hydrogen bomb explosions.

"I was very surprised with the heat of the first bomb – it felt as if an electric fire was being moved across my back," he said.

When he asked a science officer whether it would be a problem, he was told "you'll know in 40 years' time".

After the event he suffered chronic lung disease and was also concerned that his two sons' asthma and his wife's problems during pregnancy may have been caused by radiation.

Many veterans claim they have suffered ill health as a result of radiation exposure and that in many cases their children and grandchildren have also been affected.

## Drunken car raid leads to court

WOULD-BE car thief Matthew Lewis used so much force to get into a vehicle he almost wrenched the door off. Lewis, 42, of Deerton Street, near Teynham, was drunk when he was asked to act as lookout for a fellow crook. His accomplice targeted a car at the Memorial Hospital, Sittingbourne.

As they attempted to force their way into the vehicle using a crowbar they were challenged and ran off.

David Applin, prosecuting at Sittingbourne magistrates' court, said Lewis, an alcoholic, remembered being asked to act as lookout. He was picked up shortly after.

Debbie Pizzey, defending, said her client needed help. He had been drinking heavily since he was 20.

He admitted attempting to break into the car. Lewis was given a 120-day sentence, suspended for 18 months, plus 18 months' supervision to include alcohol treatment. He was ordered to pay £100 compensation.

## Flaming nuisance

A TEYNHAM man has been fined £200 after throwing cigarette end into a church yard.

Tim Alexander, 50, of The Crescent, threw a butt over the wall in Sittingbourne High Street in October.

He was seen by a street warden, who issued a fixed penalty notice. Alexander failed to pay the fine and was issued with a summons for littering. He sent a written plea of guilty to magistrates.

The fixed penalty notice would have cost Alexander £80, reduced to £60 if paid within seven days.

But as he failed to pay this fine and was taken to court he now has to pay a fine of £83, a £15 victim surcharge and £100 in costs.

## Mystery plays revival would put us on map

FROM FRONT PAGE

held outdoors or in a large building.

Instead of a seated audience, spectators follow the actors to locations where the action is performed.

Mr Maclean said: "Such a production would see much of the town centre turned into a giant outdoor theatre. I could see the play being performed in a number of parts – perhaps certain local community groups could tackle relevant stories.

"Maybe the boatbuilders could act out the story of Noah, or brewery workers the turning of water into wine.

"We would need to get many groups involved – the Scouts, the Women's Guild and of course the local drama groups.

"There is a wealth of talent in the area in the form of performers and designers – and there is also a thriving church community."

Mr Maclean is waiting for a response to his proposals from town and borough councillors.

"I am very enthusiastic about this," he said. "Such an event, held every five or so years, would really be a way of putting Faversham on the map."

## Healthy support in the town for cottage hospital

HEALTH chief have acted to allay fears over the future of Faversham Cottage Hospital.

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust reaffirmed its commitment to the facility at a public meeting in the Alexander Centre.

After a street survey questioning Faversham residents how they use the hospital and what they would like to see offered, the trust made a commitment to continue the minor injuries unit service until early July when an extended service at the hospital with dedicated, specially trained nurses will begin.

In recent months residents had feared the cottage hospital would be closed because of a lack of trained staff.

The trust also said that it would raise awareness of all the services and improve street signs to ensure residents didn't make unnecessary journeys to other health centres.



A spokesman said: "Having an x-ray facility at the hospital was high on everybody's wish list, so an exercise to see whether a mobile unit could be located on the site will begin."

"Hugh Robertson MP and League of Friends chairman David Simmons thanked the trust for taking the time to listen to residents and making the commitment to offer more opportunities for them to have a say."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Singers promise music from around the world

CANTERBURY'S world music community choir will be joined by the Maridadi Singers and Drummers at the Gulbenkian Theatre next month.

Maridadi Meltdown features music from Britain, Africa, the Balkans and Iceland, and starts at 7.45pm on Saturday, May 9.

Tickets are £12, or £10 for concessions. Call the theatre on 01227 769075, book online at [www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian](http://www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian) or go to the theatre's box office.

## Last chance to book up for big boxing night

BOXING fans can look forward to an action-packed night of entertainment at East Kent's big boxing night of the year.

A few tables are still available at Canterbury Amateur Boxing Club's fundraising event at Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, on Friday, May 1.

Tickets are £35, or tables can be reserved for groups. Call Lee on 07968 912541 or email [murray05@btinternet.com](mailto:murray05@btinternet.com).

## Discuss problems in your area at police surgery

PCSO Mike Keam will be on hand to talk to residents of Chestfield and Swalecliffe at his police surgeries next month.

The surgeries are a chance for people tell the police about problems in their neighbourhood.

PCSO Keam will be at Chestfield Golf Club on May 18 between 11.30am and 12.30pm, and on May 19 he will be at Swalecliffe Library from 11am to 12 noon. Call PCSO Keam on 0777 222 5944.

## Meet the sea cadets at fundraising open day

HERNE Bay Sea Cadets are holding an open day in May at Hampton Pier Car Park.

The cadets will be telling people what they get up to and there will be several stalls to raise money for the unit, as well as a live band.

The open day is on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25 at the unit headquarters, TS Triumph, Hampton Pier, Herne Bay, between 10am and 4pm.

# Police clamp down on teenage boozers

■ BY GARETH ARNOLD

ALLEGED sales of cigarettes and alcohol to underage youths could cost a Herne Bay newsagents its licence after police called for a review this week.

Officers began investigating Herne Bay Stores, run by Valsamma Prakasan, on the High Street.

Police say the investigation was launched after neighbours and concerned parents reported the shop repeatedly sold booze to under-18s.

One parent signed a witness statement saying her 12-year-old son had come home so drunk he was incapable of talking properly.

When he was questioned the next day he claimed a 14-year-old school friend had bought cider for him from Herne Bay Stores.

Police now believe they have enough evidence to show the licensing committee that Herne Bay Stores should be banned from selling alcohol altogether.

In a report to the committee, Supt John Molloy of Kent Police said: "The police regard the breaches of the licensing act shown in this case to be so serious that the

licence for the premises should be revoked.

"The justification for this is summarised by a disregard for the law, a disregard for the advice given by police, multiple offences being detected by police, and a need to protect the young people of Herne Bay from the consequences of alcohol being easily available."

Yet Mr Prakasan says he believes his store is being named by youngsters even though he is not responsible.

He explained that his shop staff always ask for ID before selling alcohol.

He said: "We never sell to underage people. I think people are passing our name around but we always ask people for ID."

This year police mounted Operation Disband, designed to catch youths and discover where they had bought their booze.

On Friday, February 13, plain clothes officers watching Herne Bay Stores spotted a series of youths going in and out of the shop.

Any suspected of buying alcohol were tracked and stopped by uniformed police.

One 15-year-old boy, stopped with eight cans of lager, said he was refused a receipt by the shopkeeper.

Following the operation police seized CCTV footage as well as the refusals book – a record of anyone who has been refused alcohol.

The licensing review hearing will go before the licensing committee on Tuesday, May 5.



**OPERATION DISBAND:** Police say they are determined to avoid scenes like this involving teenage drinkers in Herne Bay

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



## All you need to know about boating online

A NEW television website has been launched aimed at boating enthusiasts.

Among the subjects covered will be sailing clubs across Kent, including Whitstable and Herne Bay, as Afloat TV starts broadcasting.

Shipwrecks, boat maintenance and sailors' stories can all be found on the website which explores the area's maritime heritage as well.

It is the brainchild of producer and director Ken Rowles who is also the person behind the Swale Film Festival.

One of the subjects currently being covered is the American Liberty ship Richard Montgomery, which now lies at the bottom of the sea off the north coast of Kent – complete

with its cargo of 6,000 tonnes of ammunition.

The feature examines how the ship came to grief when it foundered in 1944 and the risk it currently poses to shipping.

Mr Rowles, who worked on many British films during the 1970s, said: "Afloat has set sail and is the perfect port of call for all boat owners."

"Afloat TV is a valuable source of information on all aspects of boat ownership as well as specially filmed video clips full of information."

Anyone who has a boating story they would like Afloat TV to include can let the company know by e-mailing them to [info@afloattv.com](mailto:info@afloattv.com).

The website itself is [www.afloattv.com](http://www.afloattv.com).

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ON SCRAPHEAP: Older cars are likely to be scrapped, leaving at the low end of the market

# £2,000 trade-in 'could hit cheap car market'

SECONDHAND car dealers say the chancellor's plan to offer a £2,000 discount to people buying new cars could result in a shortage of cheap motors.

In a scheme outlined in last week's budget, motorists buying new cars will get a £2,000 discount by trading in vehicles more than 10 years old.

Second-hand car salesmen from across the district say they are not worried by the threat to the used car industry itself, despite critics claiming a similar scheme in Germany decimated the pre-owned market.

Yet they warn that car buyers in the market for a cheap runaround might be out of luck.

Ken Bachelor of Chilham Sports Cars based on Ashford Road, Chilham, said: "We are still selling cars. In fact one of the problems we are having is getting enough second-hand stock – the right cars are still selling."

"But the ones that are selling are the cheaper cars and learner type models, around the two or three grand mark."

It is this kind of vehicle that dealers say may become harder to find.

Manager of Canterbury Car centre John Kitney said: "My understanding is they will be scrapping the cars, which will do the environment a bit of good, but many people can only afford to spend one or two grand on a car at the moment, and this will mean there are less of them about."

"I imagine it will have an effect on the two- or three-year-old market – the cars that have been driven from new. I expect you will see the price of those cars fall dramatically; that's the effect I think we'll see."

Other dealers we spoke to agreed that only the nearly-new market would suffer as a result of the scheme, but others doubted it would affect the industry at all.

Mr Bachelor said: "You lose at least £2,000 on a new car when you drive it off the forecourt, so it's not going to persuade people to buy a new car instead of a second-hand one."

"What it will do is encourage people who were going to buy a new car anyway, and push them into it a bit quicker. In some ways it will kick-start the new car industry a bit."

## Your help needed for compost scheme

WHITSTABLE needs you – to help build a composter for the volunteer centre.

Members of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers compost advisory group, together with the environmental group Transition Town Whitstable, are teaming up this Saturday to build a composter behind St Mary's Hall – and they need your help.

This new venture will show members of the community how to do their composting and also reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill from St Mary's Community Café and other rooms in the centre.

Whitstable volunteer centre provides a

number of services to the local community including a volunteer car scheme for elderly and disabled people and a gardening service.

It also provides a health information service at the Whitstable health centre as well as a second-hand charity book shop. All its services are staffed by volunteers.

It also recruits and places volunteers with third-sector organisations and also provides information and advice.

The composter will be constructed from re-used pallets at the town garden behind St Mary's Hall, Oxford Street, Whitstable.

Building will start at 12am on Saturday, May 2 – all are welcome to help.

yoursware

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Big plans for summer fete

ORGANISERS of the Blean summer fete are hoping to repeat the success of last year with an event including everything from a dog show to sumo wrestling.

The fete is organised by a team from Blean Pre-School, who have put together a huge number of attractions, including bungee trampolines, a bouncy castle, face painting, a boot fair, tombolas, raffles and bric-a-brac stalls.

Music will be provided by a jazz band, and to keep visitors refreshed there will be a barbecue and a beer tent.

The fete will also celebrate the opening of Keir's Field Nature Reserve near the village.

Clare Boarman, of Blean Pre-School said: "Last year locals agreed that it was the best summer fete Blean had seen in many years."

Blean Village Fete is on Saturday, July 11 at Blean Memorial Field, School Lane, Blean, near Canterbury between noon and 4pm.

### Park and ride concession

CONCESSIONARY bus pass holders can continue to use park and ride free as foot passengers after Canterbury council decided not to start charging.

A change in concessionary travel rules by the Department of Transport meant that from April 1 the council could have started charging bus pass holders for using the park and ride buses as a foot passenger.

More than 120,000 free journeys are taken by pass holders as foot passengers on park and ride buses each year, and the council had received calls from people concerned that this service would be withdrawn. However, the council has no plans to do this.

### Quiz night to boost funds

A QUIZ night to raise money for Herne Bay Sea Cadets will be held next month.

Tables of eight are invited to pit themselves against the competition at the event, and are welcome to bring their own refreshments.

There will be a prize for the winning table and a raffle will also be held on the night.

The quiz will be held at St Andrews Church Hall, Hampton Pier Avenue, Herne Bay, on Saturday, May 30.

To book telephone 01227 367384.

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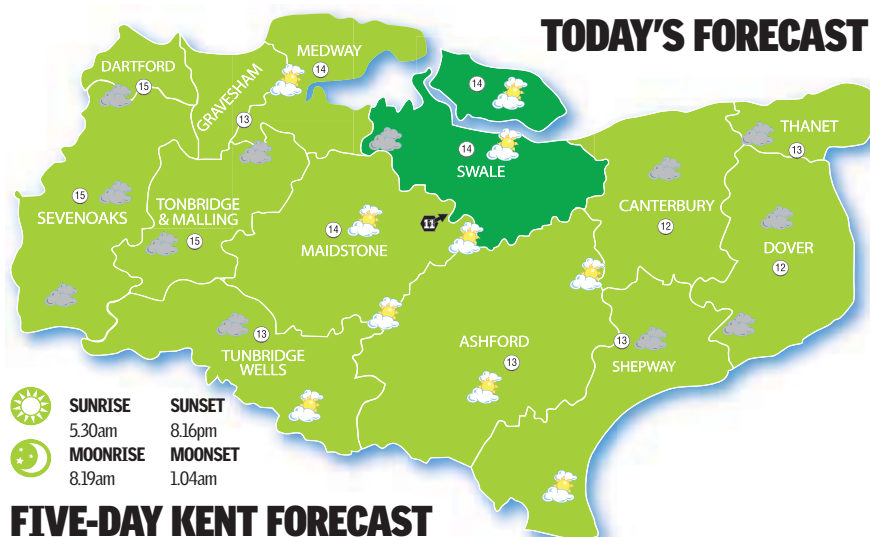




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## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	14°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	18°C	Gravesend	14°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	19°C
Canterbury	12°C	14°C	15°C	16°C	17°C	Maidstone	14°C	15°C	16°C	18°C	18°C
Chatham	12°C	15°C	14°C	15°C	15°C	Ramsgate	12°C	14°C	15°C	16°C	17°C
Dartford	14°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	19°C	Rochester	12°C	15°C	14°C	15°C	15°C
Dover	11°C	13°C	14°C	15°C	15°C	Sevenoaks	13°C	15°C	14°C	16°C	17°C
Faversham	12°C	15°C	14°C	15°C	15°C	Sittingbourne	12°C	15°C	14°C	15°C	15°C
Folkestone	11°C	13°C	14°C	15°C	15°C	Tonbridge	14°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	18°C
Gillingham	12°C	15°C	14°C	15°C	15°C	Tun Wells	14°C	16°C	16°C	18°C	18°C



## WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	7:00am	5.4m
	Sunday	8:18am	5.3m
Dover	Saturday	6:06pm	5.7m
	Sunday	7:03am	5.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	5:44pm	6.2m
	Sunday	6:21am	6.0m
Ramsgate	Saturday	6:04am	4.3m
	Sunday	7:33am	4.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	6:49am	5.2m
	Sunday	8:06am	5.1m
Whitstable	Saturday	6:57am	4.7m
	Sunday	8:17am	4.6m



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	17°C
Athens	17°C	New York	29°C
Barcelona	16°C	Paris	15°C
Beijing	24°C	Rome	23°C
Bombay	32°C	Sydney	17°C
Cape Town	20°C	Tenerife	20°C
Cardiff	10°C	Tokyo	19°C
Gibraltar	18°C	Vancouver	11°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	20°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	18°C

## Stake your claim for a seat in Europe or at County Hall

NOMINATION packs are now available for the European Parliamentary elections and the Kent County Council elections taking place on Thursday, June 4.

For the European elections the whole country is split into 12 regions and the South East has ten seats in the European Parliament.

On election day voters can choose for either the candidate or the party.

For the KCC elections there are seven divisions across Swale, and voters will be asked to pick one candidate in their respective area for the Faversham, Sheerness, Sheppey, East Swale and Swale West divisions, and two candidates for the Swale Central division.

### Nomination

A Swale council spokeswoman said: "Anyone who would like to stand as a candidate must complete a nomination pack."

"Nomination packs for the European election must be obtained from the Regional Returning Officer, Mark Heath, at Southampton City Council."

"The contact telephone number is 023 803 3954. Southampton City Council will be dealing with all aspects of the nomination process for the European elections."

"Nomination packs for the Kent County Council elections can be obtained from Swale council's electoral services."

"The contact telephone number is 01795 417330 and nomination packs must be received by the deputy returning officer by 4pm on Thursday, May 7."

"Those delivering their nomination packs by hand are asked to return the forms as soon as possible to electoral services."

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### EMMA REYNOLDS



**Q** Can you tell us a little about yourself?

**A** I was born in Twydall and Kent is still home for me, my husband Jason and our two children. Jason also works in the company.

**Q** Were you brought up in a theatrical family?

**A** No. It was a teacher at grammar school who encouraged me to take dance lessons. From the age of 11 I used to take myself off to classes. This is a very late start for a dancer, but wanting to catch up technically with my contemporaries gave me a good work ethic.

**Q** What kind of training did you do?

**A** At 15 I secured a place at Laine Theatre Arts, one of the leading musical theatre colleges also attended by Ruthie Henshall and Victoria Beckham, where I was lucky enough to get a grant to pay the fees for three years. Training as a professional dancer in such an institution not only improved me technically but also gave me confidence and inspiration.

**Q** What are the highlights of your career as a dancer?

**A** The variety has been inspiring. My early professional career combined performing, choreography and teaching, and I have worked with amazing professionals – from

Wayne Sleep to Claire from Steps. Since the development of The Reynolds Group and my position as CEO and principal of the training college, I get most fulfilment from teaching and producing shows, particularly when we can raise money for charities. It was also an honour to be invited to Downing Street in recognition of our contribution.

**Q** Who was the best dancer you have worked with and why do they stand out?

**A** I worked with Ruthie Henshall, the musical theatre actress, early in her career. She was playing a comedy role but even then was inspiring.

**Q** What were the down sides of being a dancer?

**A** Pushing your body beyond its limits and the constant worry of injuries. But on the plus side you are fit, have a good figure and get to perform every night.

**Q** Why did you decide to move into the fitness industry with your three gyms in Kent?

**A** When I worked for a record label, the stars needed to look good as well as move well for stage shows and videos, so personal training worked naturally alongside the choreography. I opened the first gym in Dartford 13 years ago and since then we have opened others at Rainham and Sittingbourne, and expanded Dartford and moved to Bexley, which also has

a performing arts school.

**Q** How important do you think it is to encourage more people to take up a form of exercise to combat obesity?

**A** Incredibly important. We do a lot of work as part of the healthy schools campaign. A child whose parents are obese has a 90 per cent chance of having health problems. If parents keep fit, the children will too. Only 15 per cent of adults exercise in gyms, which is why it is important to provide a non-intimidating atmosphere for everyone.

**Q** Is that what Reynolds gyms aim to achieve?

**A** Definitely. I am passionate about health and fitness for all, so the whole ethos behind our clubs is to encourage anyone to come along and improve their fitness. We combine modern facilities in beautiful surroundings with friendly, dedicated professional staff.

**Q** What do you like to do when you're not working?

**A** Spending time with my family. Theatre, naturally, and historic architecture.

**Q** Do you think your children will follow in their mum's theatrical footsteps?

**A** My girl enjoys dancing but my boy isn't into it yet. We'll have to wait and see.

•For more information, visit [www.reynoldsgroup.co.uk](http://www.reynoldsgroup.co.uk).

**Q&A**

The former dancer spoke to **Jon Coates** about performing with top stars such as Wayne Sleep and Ruthie Henshall, and setting up The Reynolds Group of health and fitness clubs, and a performing arts school

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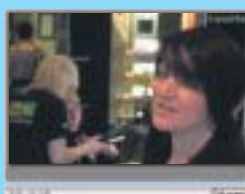




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Film director Ken Rowles' TV channel for boating enthusiasts. Search 'afloat'



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Apprentice star Mona Lewis at the Kent 20 20 Vision conference. Search 'vision'

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

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# Foreign truckers blamed for UK's porous borders

■ BY KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

THE true scale of Britain's lax border security has been revealed after shocking new figures showed that nine out of ten truckers bringing illegal immigrants into the country are foreign.

The UK Borders Agency admitted that of all the lorry drivers bringing in desperate migrants into the UK, 90 per cent were overseas drivers.

The figures, revealed following a Freedom of Information request, showed 1,571 foreign truckers were fined an estimated £2 million last year after clandestine migrants were found hiding in the back of their trucks.

In comparison, only 195 British hauliers were caught with stowaways and were fined some £300,000.

British drivers have accused their foreign counterparts of risking £2,000 fines per migrant found because they know they will not have to pay them.

The statistics only show what was collected by the agency, not the total amount of fines issued, meaning there is still more than £1million owed in fines by foreign truckers.

Shadow immigration minister Damian Green said the foreign truckers were "abusing" UK laws and that a crackdown was needed.

The Tory MP for Ashford said the £2,000 fines were not deterring foreign drivers, adding: "Clearly many are abusing our immigration laws and they should be punished effectively when they are found to be carrying migrants on board their lorries."

"This is why the Conservatives continue to call for a dedicated and specialist border police force."



**PORT IN A STORM:** Would-be migrants keeping warm in Calais, hoping to gain access to the UK

Trucker Mervyn Osgood, 54, from Maidstone, said: "It's an absolute farce – we always see the foreign drivers talking to the migrants in Calais."

"These figures don't surprise me at all."

He said foreign truckers caught with illegals on board simply ignored the fines handed to them – sometimes not even telling their bosses they had been caught.

He added: "They know they can get away with it because they don't seem to get prosecuted, so to them it's worth the risk."

"They get £1,500 from each illegal, so if they get four on they pocket around £6,000."

"Then they just unload their cargoes and head back to their countries."

"We can't do that because we live here and we take our jobs seriously."

The true extent of illegal migration is likely to be much bigger than the figures reveal.

The UK Border Agency admitted the stats do not reflect the fact that the 1,571 foreign

lorry drivers may have brought in up to ten migrants or more a time.

A spokesman for the agency said: "These figures don't reflect the actual figure because there are often more than one clandestine found per vehicle."

The spokesman said that last year a total of 28,000 migrants was caught trying to sneak into Britain on board lorries crossing the Channel by ferry.

The stats also revealed the foreign truckers were fined a further £811,507 for working in Britain without the necessary haulage permits.

Peter Cullum, head of international affairs at the Road Hauliers Association of Great Britain, said British drivers were doing their best to avoid migrant hot-spots across the Channel.

He said: "We know most of the drivers coming across with migrants on board are foreign. It's very few of our guys."

## Desperate migrant clung to Eurostar train at 186mph

AN ILLEGAL immigrant clung to the roof of a Eurostar as it hit a top speed of 186mph travelling through Kent, it has emerged.

The desperate migrant is thought to have jumped on to the train from an overhead bridge as it slowed before entering the Channel Tunnel near Calais.

He then clung to the roof for the 45-minute journey through the tunnel before the train reached Kent and hurtled towards London – with the man somehow holding on.

The migrant was only spotted at Ebbsfleet International Station, near Dartford, as he tried to slip down inbetween two carriages to make an escape.

The bid has highlighted how desperate the estimated 1,300 immigrants living around Calais have become to get into the UK.

### Jumped

Michael Whelan, 38, a passenger on the Brussels to London service on Thursday, told a national newspaper: "I spoke to the train captain at Ebbsfleet and he told me the train slowed as it approached the tunnel at Calais so he thought the man probably jumped on to the roof there from an overhead bridge."

"I don't know how long he was on the roof, but one of the Eurostar workers spotted him on it at Ebbsfleet and then he hid in the gap between the carriages."

The man, thought to be of Indian descent and in his early 20s, was arrested by officers from the British Transport Police before being handed over to the UK Border Agency, which gave him a medical examination.

Passengers were delayed as sniffer dogs were brought in to search for further immigrants, but the man had carried out his death-defying stunt alone.

A Eurostar spokesman said: "A man believed to be an illegal immigrant was on one of the train carriages. He was removed and detained by British Transport Police. We can't comment on how he got there, but the train would have reached speeds up to 186mph between the tunnel and Ebbsfleet."

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Tour **NS7****SELF DRIVE****£269****CAR FERRY INCLUDED****JUST  
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BAR**

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Live nightly entertainment includes cabaret and dancing with Warner's in-house entertainment team and visiting artists to add variety. We've added a 50p bar from 12 noon to 11pm every day for house beers & spirits, house wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee. Accommodation is in en-suite chalets located near the entertainment and restaurant venues. All chalets have a colour TV and hospitality tray.

**PRICE INCLUDES:** 4 nights in a twin/double en-suite chalet

• 4 dinners & 4 breakfasts • 50P bar every day - from 12noon to 11pm - includes house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Live cabaret entertainment • Self drive with car ferry included

**Isle of Wight Christmas Party  
at Warner Norton Grange****3 NIGHTS ALL INCLUSIVE**Friday, November 27 to 30  
Tour **NP11****SELF DRIVE****£179****CAR FERRY INCLUDED****JUST  
FOR ADULTS****FREE  
BAR**

Enjoy an early taste of Christmas at our Isle of Wight Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange. You'll find a fun-filled party atmosphere with festive food and entertainment and we've included a **Free Bar** every day to help the party go with a swing. You'll enjoy the traditional Warner benefits of quality accommodation and a proper breakfast and 3-course dinner each day and live entertainment every evening.

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• 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts \* lunch not included • Free bar every day - from 3.30pm to 11pm on Day 1 and 12noon to 11pm on subsequent days (not departure day) - includes house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea & coffee • Festive food & live entertainment • Self drive with car ferry included



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Our hugely successful campaign has been urging all our readers to help support local growers, producers and suppliers in order to safeguard and protect local economies, cut down on food miles, and deliver all the great taste benefits. And now you can deliver a direct financial benefit to your local school – just by shopping at [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk).

But we need YOUR help to let us know which schools should get the cash and to help spread the word of all the benefits to health, the local economy and your pocket that buying local brings. The [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk) website is spearheading our campaign by offering a huge range of seasonal produce – all sourced, wherever possible, from Kent – and is the perfect one-stop shop for all your shopping needs. Now every time you place an order of more than £40 on the site, we'll donate £2.50 to your nominated school. All you have to do is let us know which school you want to support and give the money to, and then tell your friends and other parents. Every time



## Flavour of the month? You're absolutely right

IT'S in season for just a few short weeks, but while it's here it's one of the taste sensations of the year. Kent asparagus is available now and as a special promotion anyone placing an order at [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk) will receive a FREE bunch so they can taste it for themselves. The special offer applies to every single order placed between now and next Sunday, May 3.

Simply log on and place your order at the site and before you know it, your shopping will arrive – complete with the free gift.

Asparagus is the perfect example of a food benefiting from a reduction in food miles and is at its very best within hours of being picked. Meanwhile, next Saturday, May 2, the Penshurst farmers' market will be celebrating its arrival with an Asparagus Festival.

It will showcase locally-grown asparagus, while local farmer Michael Bourne will be on hand to showcase the best way to cook and grow asparagus.

Alison Shamash, the Asparagus Festival organiser, said: "English asparagus is always popular with visitors to the market. It has only a short six-week season, and it needs to be as fresh as possible, so local is definitely best."

"Asparagus contains high levels of vitamin A, folic acid and dietary fibre, which all play an important role in fighting cancer."

"It is also rich in soluble fibre, which has a protective effect against degenerative heart diseases. There are fewer than four calories per spear, and it is very low in cholesterol and has no fat. And because it's so local, it's very low in food miles, too."



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they then spend on the site, another £2.50 will go to the school – and you'll be surprised at how quickly it all adds up. The scheme has already been tested at a handful of schools across the county and is proving a big hit, with parents eager to take part and schools seeing the very real financial benefits. Jonathan Parker of [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk), said: "Healthy, fresh produce should be an integral part of every child's diet."

"Food for Schools is an exciting new scheme where we can raise awareness of the benefits of local produce and donate significant funds to our county's schools."

"We've run a successful pilot and now we are rolling it out to the whole of Kent. If you care about children's diets, local produce and your local school, get in touch to see how you can help. Together we're going to raise a lot of cash for Kent's schools."

You may be a parent, teacher, governor or member of the PTA, but to ensure your school benefits, simply contact Jonathan Parker direct by emailing your details to [schools@foodforkent.co.uk](mailto:schools@foodforkent.co.uk). You will then be given a special code and every time you shop with [www.foodforkent.co.uk](http://www.foodforkent.co.uk) £2.50 will go towards the school – with the money handed over every month.

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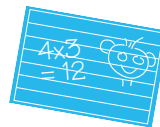
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## BREAK TIME

### Les enfants cordiale

PUPILS at Danley Middle School, Sheerness, have taken part in a French exchange with youngsters from across the Channel.

Twenty children and two teachers from Danley's partner school, Collège Joliot-Curie in Calonne-Ricouart, northern France, visited between March 30 and April 2, staying with host families.

The youngsters visited the Canterbury Tales and Hever Castle, and on their last day the French pupils attended lessons at Danley with their British counterparts.

### Kent Test meeting

A PARENTS meeting will take place tomorrow evening at Luddenham School in Faversham, starting at 7pm.

The meeting is open to all parents, but will be of particular interest to those with children in year five who will be sitting the Kent Test in September and transferring to secondary school in 2010.

Areas covered include an outline of how the system works and the benefits of taking the examination.

# Training the next generation

■ BY NICK AMES

NEW funding was announced in the Budget for all 16 and 17 year olds to stay in education or training if they want to.

The Government has allocated an extra £655 million for training and education projects in a bid to avoid young people leaving school and struggling to find jobs during the recession.

Ministers say this additional money will help tackle youth unemployment and ensure continued investment in skills throughout the economic downturn.

The announcement was intended to reassure school and college leaders who were concerned that their financial allocations would not fund the recent unanticipated surge in the number of young people wanting to continue learning.

It is also intended to make sure a place in education and training for every 16 and 17-year-old who wants one is available.

There will be additional investment of £251m in 2009-10 and £404m in 2010-11 to



ED BALLS: Tackling youth unemployment is crucial

allow 54,400 more young people to take up a guaranteed place at school or college or with a training provider in 2009 and 2010.

It will take the total number of young people able to take a place of their choice to a record

level of more than 1,550,000.

This is the highest number of post-16 learners ever. In addition, a further £80m will be prioritised from the Department for Children, Schools and Families capital budgets over the next two years to support college capital projects which benefit 16 to 19-year-olds.

Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls, said: "The announcement guarantees young people that their sixth form, college or training place will be protected and paid for by the Government.

"This means 54,400 more young people will be able to study or train, more than we had planned for last year.

"Encouraging young people to stay on in education or training is vital to ensure we are well placed for economic recovery.

"We have already announced funding for 17,500 extra apprenticeships for young people so the new funding announced here will mean 72,000 more young people will have an education and training place this year.

"As well as giving schools and colleges the reassurance that the growth they have already seen this year will be funded, this announcement means that we can ensure that young people not in education, employment or training get new opportunities to learn."

SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)



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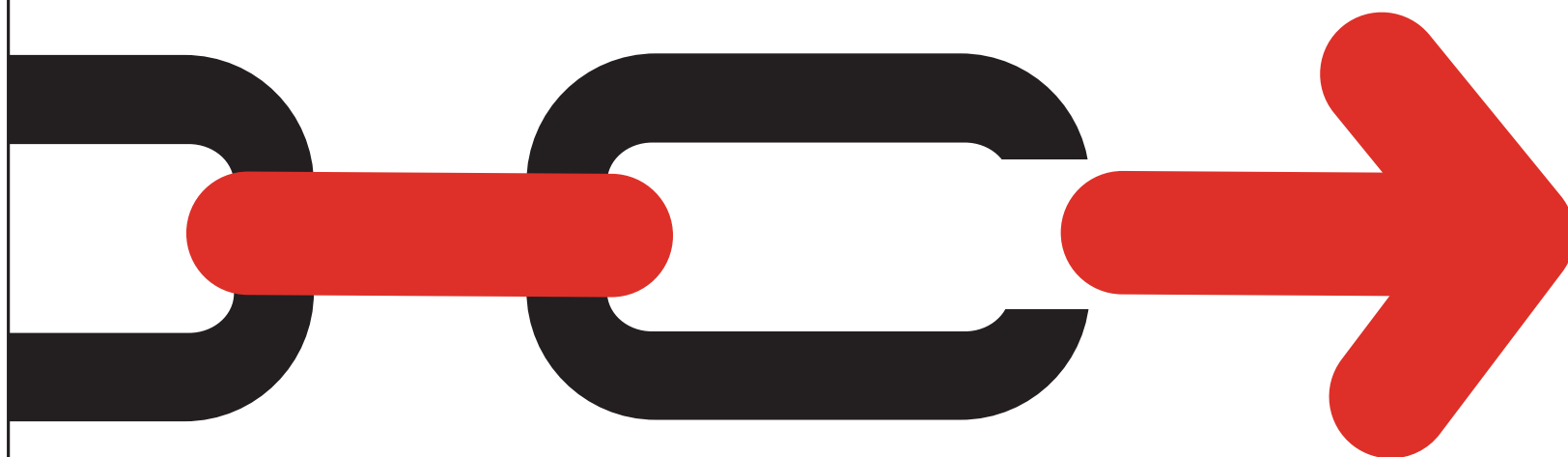
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## Trekkie stereotypes help make the world go round

STEREOTYPES are a wonderful thing. They allow us to pigeonhole people in a quite remarkable way.

Whole nations can be referred to in a way which either acknowledges their strengths or, more often than not, underlines our own latent xenophobia.

Religious followers can find themselves all lumped together in a gloriously unfair description. And, however good you are in business, your position or occupation will mean most of us have some preconceived notions about you before you have uttered a word.

All opinions we form by stereotype rather than experience. And we all fall victim to the sweeping generalisations – some more than others – and always to varying degrees.

The vast majority are unfair. After all, most of them are just plain mean. But not all. Oh no. Some stereotypes are just plain fact. And when you see the persons to which they refer

you will go away thinking 'cripes, they really WERE just like people warned me'.

The perfect example of this is the Trekkie. The die-hard Star Trek fan, who will immediately tell you they are actually a 'Trekker'. And with a new movie hitting the big screens this month they were out in force in London last week to cheer on their heroes at the premiere.

Now the stereotype would be of geeky-looking people – a cunning blend of still-living-with-your-parents-haircuts, acne, home-made props, stick-on Spock ears and life-long difficulty relating to the opposite sex.

And, sure enough, the gaggle of Spock-ear wearing, bad hair, awkward looking folk stood outside whatever cinema it was at Leicester Square proved there was a reason stereotypes are something not worth entirely dismissing.

Star Trek is a bizarre obsession for many but has all the key ingredients to generate the form of super fandom which takes people down the dubious path of obsession; its science fiction (which always attracts the fanatic),

there have been outings on the big and small screen, spin-offs a-plenty, and enough merchandise to fill a small country.

But surely it has become such a joke to be a Trekkie that you'd think the real hardcore would realise people were laughing at – and crucially not with – them. You'd think they would make an effort to prove being a Star Trek fan didn't mean having a life-long aversion to basic levels of hygiene and even a nodding acquaintance with fashion. You'd think they'd want to smash the stereotype.

The only conclusion I can draw from this is that they actually enjoy the sense of belonging fulfilling the Trekkie stereotype brings with it.

And, after all, where would be the fun if they shattered that particular stereotype?

Beam me up, Scotty.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.**

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor, **Jon Coates**, on 01303 81048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourswale.co.uk](http://www.yourswale.co.uk).

Write to The Editor, Yoursware, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

\* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion



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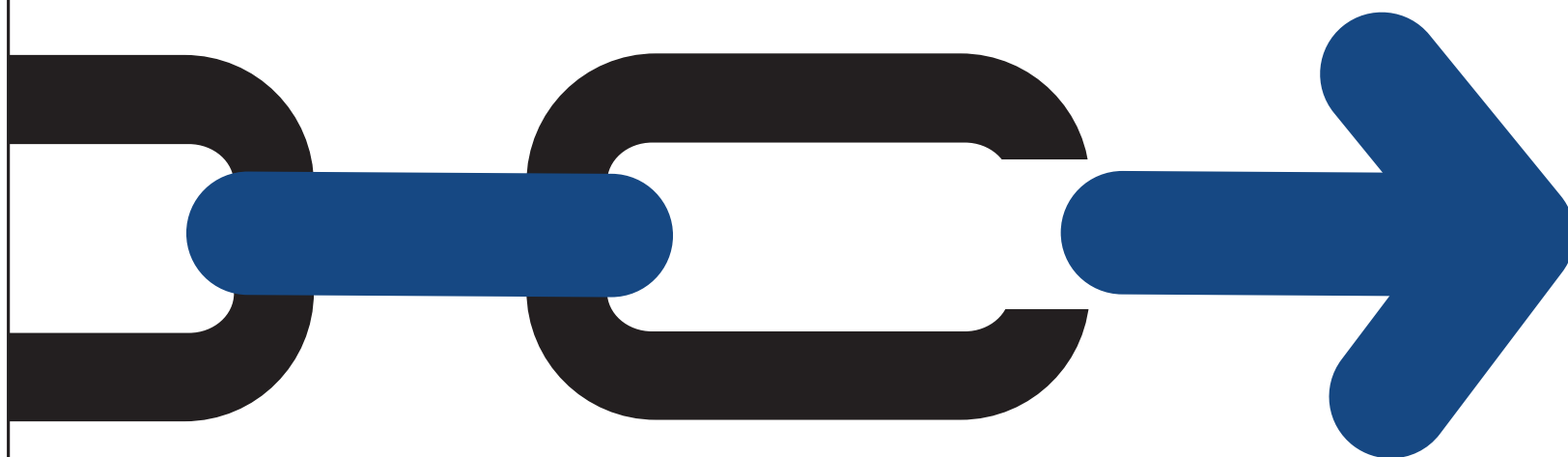


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To find out more about how the 'Touch Effects' can help make everyday moments even more special, visit [www.lenortoucheffects.co.uk](http://www.lenortoucheffects.co.uk).

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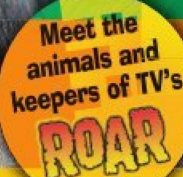
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## Folkestone's alternative festival is Hevy



HEADLINE: Feeder will perform at the old Rotunda

FEEDER, Ash and Gary Numan will be among the headline acts descending on Folkestone seafront this summer for the launch of a new music festival.

The old Rotunda amusement park at the foot of the cliffs will be the site of the Hevy Music Festival on Saturday, August 1, which will also feature a string of other indie-rock bands including Hundred Reasons, Kids In Glass Houses, Attack! Attack!, Sonic Boom Six

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

and In Case Of Fire.

The newest arrival to Kent's growing festival scene comes in the wake of the postponement last month of Red List Live at Port Lympne, due to increasing competition and the effects of the recession.

Promoter James Dutton said: "There are many fantastic new festivals being developed in Kent this year.

"To try to create something a bit different,

and cater for a market that we felt could do with some attention, we're developing this as an alternative music festival.

"We're unbelievably excited to be bringing these huge names to Folkestone, but our aim has always been to develop the local music scene and support the wealth of talent Kent has to offer.

He said preparations had been ongoing for the past six months and they were "keeping things simple" for their first year by sticking to a one-day event.

"We're hoping to develop the event next year, with more bands on more stages, possibly over a number of days," said Mr Dutton.

"We're now on the hunt for Kent's greatest bands to play the festival's second stage and they can get in touch via our website."

The company behind the festival, Hevy, has been involved in Folkestone before in bringing the likes of the Holloways and Turin Brakes to the Leas Cliff Hall.

The announcement comes as the music and arts scene in Shepway continues to thrive, with the opening of Folkestone's latest live venue Quarterhouse already attracting top jazz players and stand-up acts.

Tickets for the Hevy Festival are priced at £48 and are on sale now at [www.hevy.co.uk](http://www.hevy.co.uk) and from the Leas Cliff Hall box office.

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## TALK TIME

### JO GORE

Jenny Armstrong talks to Jo Gore, mum of Keziah, 14, and Jael, 12, two aspiring young Canterbury gymnasts who have enjoyed international success and harbour hopes for London 2012



#### How much do they practise?

They train on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays after school between 4pm and 8pm on a Monday and 4pm to 7pm on the other days. They train on the Saturday from 9am until 4pm. That's a normal week. When they are on half term or holidays they do six hours four or five days a week. When they are at the national sports centre they do six hours a day and they stay up there anything between four and seven days.

#### Do you think the sport is good for them?

I think any sport is good for children if they're getting some regular exercise, and also for discipline. With all the stretching in gymnastics I do worry sometimes, and I'm very quick to check out problems with the physiotherapist. Apart from that sport is very good for my children in discipline and friendship-making. No other child their age could possibly have had the experiences they have had abroad. It is a fantastic opportunity and it does keep them very fit and healthy.

#### Do they enjoy it?

Jael consistently enjoys it. The training is very hard work – it isn't easy at their standard, and they are ever so young. Also at Kezi's age a lot of girls her age are thinking of leaving if they're not on a national team which she is finding difficult. They love competitions. They love it when they win medals or when they do their routines well whether they win medals or not. They generally enjoy their training but it is a huge commitment for them. It is a lot of hard work, and at times there is a lot of pressure as well.

## YOUR LETTERS



### Lotto scoop would be just the ticket

How wonderful it would be to discover the winning lottery ticket you mentioned last week and realise all your troubles during these difficult times were at an end.

I have always dreamt of such a windfall – and I don't even play the lottery!

I only hope someone, somewhere, finds the ticket before it is too late. Although at least so many good causes will benefit if they don't.

Mrs H Hurst  
Newnham

### Charities should be given the whole lot

Surely Camelot shouldn't be actively hunting out this missing ticket holder? They've had six months to come forward, and surely everyone who plays the



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Lottery these days, remembers to check their tickets at some point.

Surely better the money goes to the good causes and brings delight to so many more – which, in turn, reflects so much better on Camelot.

An amount such as £1.5m could delight and change the lives of so many if invested in a community project, rather than the fortunes of just one.

J Underdown  
By email

## Continental taste for summer's Hop Festival



### Credit crunch won't catch festival on hop

I am confident this year's Faversham Hop Festival will prove a big hit and even more so given the recession.

Now is the ideal time for people in the area to come together to celebrate this sort of event on their doorstep, ploughing money back into the local economy and cutting down on the expense of travel and accommodation etc.

Here's to it proving a big success.  
Henry Smith  
Faversham

### Lounge is the place to be this summer

The Lounge on the Farm festival organisers really needn't worry too much about their event.

The festival is already hugely popular and, more importantly, hugely popular at a local level.

Already most of my friends have identified it as the place to go this summer – even if it's the only one they attend.

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## Sun shines on a festival booming despite threats

More difficult to convince people to attend will be the likes of the Hop Farm event which is expensive and has acts who have been playing the festival circuit for years. I think Lounge will emerge the winner.

Garth Hobbs  
Faversham

## French fishermen should pay for strike

Kent County Council are quite right with their campaign to try and get compensation from the French over the ferry blockade.

Every time there is a problem across the Channel we in Kent have to suffer.

It is really infuriating. Residents of this county have no control over fish quotas, shipping regulations or whatever else it is they are going on about.

There is nothing we can do to help

or hinder them yet we are forced to endure hours of traffic misery because of a dispute which has absolutely nothing to do with us.

So I agree – enough is enough.

Michael Hardy  
By email

## What price if we were to block ports?

If a group of British workers carried on in the same way as the French fishermen do, you can bet there would be uproar in Europe.

Other affected countries – especially if they happened to be France – would queue up to condemn British arrogance and high handedness.

But no one seems to have anything to say in the EU parliament to the French.

I thought free movement of goods and people between member states was one of the cornerstones of the EU?

Well, the French are quite clearly breaking that edict and they should be punished for doing so.

Vanessa Brown  
By email

## Iceland error should not go unpunished

So it looks as though Kent County Council may get some of the money it so foolishly invested in Icelandic banks back.

But that does in no way exonerate the staff from what was as an appallingly poor piece of judgement.

Even if some of the taxpayers money is returned that should in no way excuse the fact that this was a serious error of judgement and whoever was at fault needs to be held accountable.

Philip Blair  
By email

## End of the recession an unlikely Christmas gift

So according to the Government the recession is set to be over by Christmas.

Has anyone got any faith in these sorts of predictions anymore?

We are constantly being told recovery is on the way and things are getting back on track but all I hear about is people being laid off from their jobs and businesses closing down.

On a recent visit to Folkestone I noticed that both the independent record store and a large branch of Waterstone's had closed down.

With Woolworths also long gone the town centre of what is supposed to be one of the county's up and coming areas had a decidedly depressed air about it.

I thought the same about Ashford and Deal when I went there recently – so any talk of a recovery seems hopelessly premature.

Bob Atkins  
By email

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The restaurant – which is one of the longest-running in Kent (and with good reason) has a modern interior with that classic countryside feel we love about Boughton. Gone are the hops, in are classic Parisian



black and white portraits, and images that reflect the sophisticated yet friendly atmosphere the team strives to create each and every evening. Also in is a fresh new menu, with some old favourites – the famous Crab, Avocado and Cheese starter – and some new dishes, from Mediterranean Feta and Rocket Salad or Sweet Chilli Prawns, to Oregano Swordfish Steak – while Paul's famous steaks remain as expertly prepared. All meals are freshly prepared on the night

too, using the finest ingredients, locally-sourced where possible. So whether it's a romantic meal for two, a birthday party, wedding reception, or any other excuse – Martin's guarantees the elegance of London, in the heart of the garden of England.

For a look at the menu, see [www.martinsrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.martinsrestaurant.co.uk). Open Tuesday to Saturday evenings and Sunday lunches. Opening Times: 7pm, last orders 10pm (Sunday lunch: 12pm, last orders 2pm).

If you like to dine out but are a bit indecisive when your menu arrives, then the Friday night carvery is ideal for you. A spectacular array of fresh seafood, salads, roast meats and vegetables means that you can create your own starter and main course for just £14.50. Simple, yet hugely satisfying.

Martin's Restaurant, 40, The Street, Boughton-under-Blean. Tel 01227 750304

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### ■ The Swan

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The kitchen is open for business from 12 midday until 2.30pm from Tuesdays to Saturdays for lunches that start at a bargain

£1.99. Sunday roast is served from 12 noon to 3.30pm and is extremely popular.

Live entertainment is staged every Saturday evening and also some Sundays.

The pub itself is open from 12 noon to midnight Sunday to Thursdays while on Fridays it is open from 12 noon until 2am.

The Swan steak sandwich is one of the best selling dishes on the menu but there's a wide variety of food to choose from. It's all home cooked and fish and vegetarian cuisine are also available. There are bars outside so customers can enjoy the summer sunshine.

The Swan, 78 London Road, Teynham, Sittingbourne, ME9 9QH. Telephone: 01795 521218.



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#### Yoons

Start with butterfly king prawns in bread crumbs. There are many dishes we could recommend but our Papan is very popular and for a second course dish we would recommend crispy aromatic duck or Mongolian lamb. Telephone: 01634 409090.

#### The Owl

Try Scallops Deville – local king scallops, pan seared with white wine, pilaf rice and topped with curry sauce, followed by breast of guinea fowl, wrapped in bacon, pan roasted and topped in a creamy wild mushroom sauce. Telephone: 01634 235059.

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# It's just a silly phase they're going through

10cc are not in love, they're just on a 94-date tour

FOR nearly 40 years, 10cc has been entertaining audiences all over the world with its music.

The band became a real chart force during the 70s, releasing hits that still receive frequent airplay today, such as Dreadlock Holiday and the perennial favourite I'm Not In Love. Thanks to the enduring popularity of their songs and the ready availability of their music on the internet, 10cc is continuing to win new fans and has never really been off the road.

Frontman Graham Gouldman is a gifted songwriter who developed a love of music when he was just a small child. Just as he was beginning to listen to the radio, the airwaves were carrying the new sounds of skiffle and rock 'n' roll and Gouldman still feels the influence of artists like the Beatles today.

He played in a number of bands in the Manchester area from the early 60s onwards and wrote his first top 10 hit, For Your Love, at the age of just 19. However, he did not get to step into the limelight just yet – the

### 10CC

Various venues  
Various dates



song was actually recorded by the Yardbirds. At that time Gouldman was a member of the Mockingbirds, which had landed a regular spot as a warm-up act for Top of the Pops. So Gouldman had to stand by and watch the audience go wild for the Yardbirds when they came on to sing his song.

By the time he formed 10cc in 1970 with singer-guitarist Eric Stewart and multi-instrumentalists Kevin Godley and Lol Creme, Gouldman had also written hits for the Hollies, Herman's Hermits and Jeff Beck. The band started out as a session group called Hotlegs and enjoyed a surprise hit with Neanderthal Man, before signing to Jonathan King's UK Records label and changing their name to 10cc, inspired by a male bodily function.

The follow-up, Rubber Bullets, topped the chart and really launched 10cc as a pop force to be reckoned

with, though success in the US was elusive until 1975 when unconventional ballad I'm Not In Love went to number two in the American charts.

Following the departure of Godley and Creme in 1976, Gouldman and Stewart carried on as a duo until 1984. Gouldman then teamed up with Andrew Gold to form Wax, their most memorable hit being Bridge To Your Heart, and 10cc members reunited in the early 90s to record the album Meanwhile...

Now the band is in the middle of a mammoth 94-date tour, encompassing five countries, and Kent fans will have the chance to see them perform when they visit the county in May. The current line-up, led by Gouldman, comprises lead guitarist Rick Fenn, drummer Paul Burgess, Mick Wilson on percussion and guitar and Mike Stevens on keyboards, guitar and saxophone.

10cc will be performing at the Central Theatre in Chatham on Saturday; the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, on Friday, May 8, and the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Thursday, May 21.



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## HANS THEESSINK

Wednesday, May 6  
Chimney Boy, Faversham

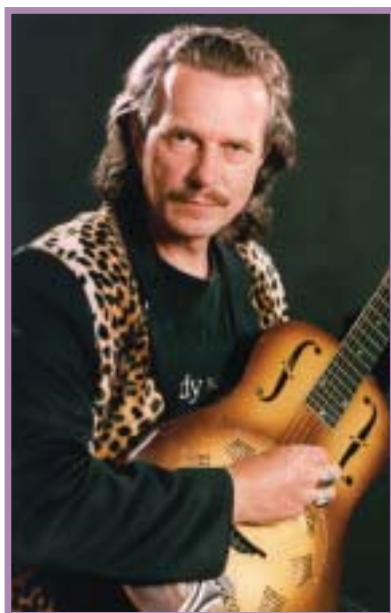


THE next visitor to Faversham Folk Club is a Dutchman from Vienna who plays American blues and roots music.

Hans Theessink makes a much-requested return with the music that first gripped him in the early 60s. He does not have the most obvious background for blues, but he has dedicated himself to his craft. Theessink even attracted praise from the legendary Bo Diddley, who described him as 'one helluva guitar player'.

Although his style is unmistakably based on blues, he has drawn his influences from many other types of roots music and made a trademark of his diversity, earning fans all over the world. The world's leading blues publication, Blues Revue, described Theessink as "an international blues treasure".

Doors open at 8pm and the music starts at 8.30pm. Admission costs £6 for club members, £7 for non-members and is free for under-18s. For more information call 01795 423674.



## AN EVENING WITH TONY BENN

Saturday, May 2  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



VETERAN politician Tony Benn will be talking about his life in politics when he visits Canterbury.

As the longest serving Labour MP in the history of the party, Benn enjoyed a 50-year career in Parliament. He joined the party in 1942 and retired from the House of Commons in May 2001, so he should be very well-placed to discuss the changes that have taken place in the Labour Party over the years. There are sure to be plenty of entertaining political anecdotes to enjoy as well.

Benn served as a Cabinet minister in the Wilson and Callaghan governments from 1964 to 1979, during which time he acted as Minister of Technology. He was also Secretary of State for both industry and energy, while in 1977 he became President of the Council of European Energy Ministers. He was an elected member of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party for 35 years and chaired the party from 1971-2.

An Evening With Tony Benn starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £17/£16. Book online at [www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk](http://www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk) or call the box office on 01227 769075.



## FINSBURY SMITH

Thursday, April 30  
Orange Street Music Club,  
Canterbury



CLASSICALLY trained singer-songwriter Finsbury Smith combines a number of influences to create his exciting sound.

The Ramsgate artist has been hailed as a visionary songwriter destined for international success, with many of his finest songs appearing on his much-anticipated full-length album, Tic Tac Toe. Blending the simplicity of a pop song with the interest of a classical aria, he compliments his lyrics with exciting instrumentation and original arrangements.

Smith has been writing songs since he was 11 and has drawn on a diverse range of influences. The artists that made it onto his bedroom stereo included The



Doors and The Velvet Underground, going on to explore jazz, classical, pop and Latin genres during his teen years.

He will be performing as Stilton, his solo Electronica project, which destroys the boundaries of pop, dance, jazz, indie and drum and

bass for an original sound.

Smith has used his songs to support charitable causes such as Water Aid, Make A Wish Foundation, Demelza House children's hospice and The Salvation Army.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £8/£6. Book at [www.soundsnew.org.uk](http://www.soundsnew.org.uk).

## SWALE LEISURE

### Sweet opportunity to see popular musical

THEATRE fans are being offered a last chance to see Michael Ball in hit musical Hairspray in London's West End.

The actor will quit his role as Edna Turnblad in the summer, so The Sweet Scene in Faversham is running a coach trip to see the show on May 21. Tickets cost £53 including a Royal Circle seat and return travel. Call 01795 535293 or visit the shop in Preston Street.

### Go dotty for colour at Blue Yellow Red display

CELEBRATE colour with a new exhibition at a Teynham gallery this weekend.

Blue Yellow Red will feature colourful works by Swale-based artists. It opens at the Polka Dot Art Centre in London Road on Saturday and runs until June 28.

The art centre is open from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information call 01795 521167 or visit [www.polkadotac.co.uk](http://www.polkadotac.co.uk).

### Annual bike ride brings community together

GET pedalling to raise money for charity in the 15th Annual Faversham Bike Ride on Sunday.

The 10-mile circular route starts from the Recreation Ground at 11am and there is also a circuit for young cyclists.

All riders must register before and after the ride. Sponsorship forms are available around the town, including in the Alexander Centre in Preston Street.

### Medieval music takes you to the Middle Ages

SPEND an evening in the company of 'the last troubadours' when Les Derniers Trouvères come to Canterbury.

The medieval folk group sings songs from the Middle Ages in contemporary French, using authentic melodies to echo the words of the age.

The concert will be at Orange Street Music Club at 8pm on Monday. Tickets cost £5. To book call 01227 760801.

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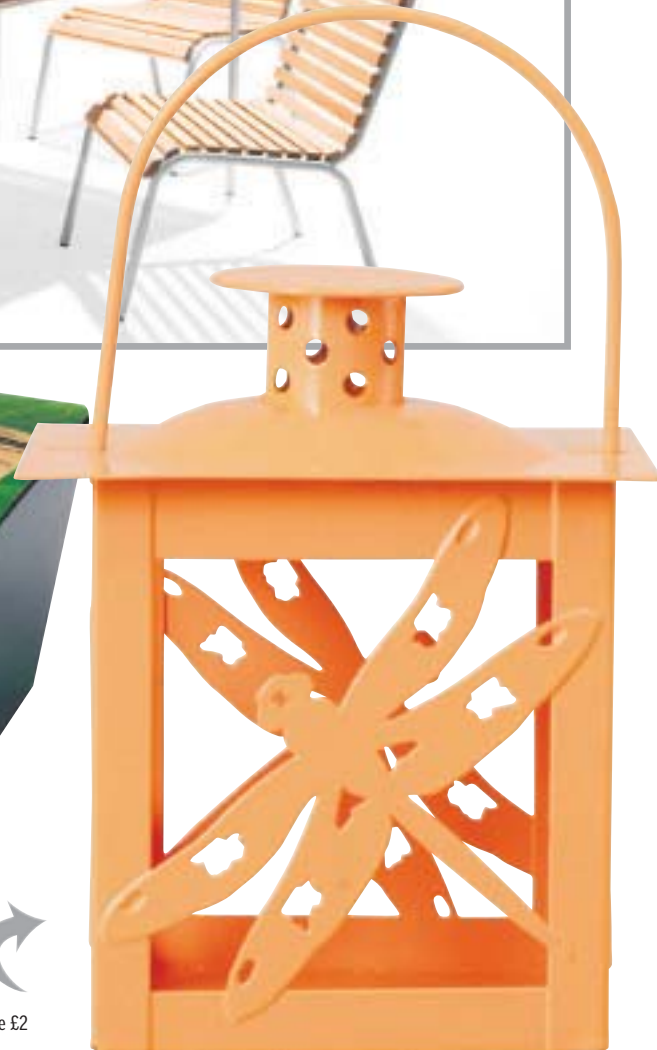


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A vibrant still life composition on a bright pink tablecloth. In the foreground, a purple glass pitcher is partially filled with water. To its right, three tall, slender glasses with a purple and gold ribbed pattern are arranged. A black vase holds a bouquet of yellow flowers. In the lower right, a purple plate with a gold rim holds a collection of yellow and pink macarons. The background features a white wall with a large, stylized purple and white floral pattern.

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range by Linea,  
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Celia Birtwell Little  
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Hearts pitcher, price £10

## Two mobile phones are shown, one in the foreground and one slightly behind it. Both screens display text messages. The foreground phone shows a message from 'John Smith' with the text 'I'm on my way to the office. I'll be there in 10 minutes.' The background phone shows a message from 'John Smith' with the text 'I'm on my way to the office. I'll be there in 10 minutes.'

Barbara Coker on 01303 817072



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# yourswaletimeout

## YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

**THE SPEAKER**  
BBC Two, 8pm, Wednesday  
**KATIE AND PETER: THE NEXT CHAPTER STATESIDE**  
ITV 2, 9pm, Thursday

IT'S been a showcase for the most annoying young people in the country to talk their way into everyone's bad books, so it is probably for the best that The Speaker is coming to an end.

There have been a few good performers, but by and large this has been a bit pointless and it's hard to imagine that anyone out there has really been enthralled by the search – especially as so many of the more interesting contestants were given their cards early on.

In tonight's final the last three young orators meet up with Obi Wan Kenobi, or Ewan McGregor as he's more commonly known in a galaxy closer to home.

The actor travels to Malawi with them to look at children's rights, which is bad news for him as he'll be stuck in another country with the gobby, opinionated little tykes.

On their return to Blighty they will let their tonsils loose once again to see who can deliver some kind of mesmerising piece of speech to judges comic Jo Brand, ex-basketballer John Amaechi and Jeremy Stockwell – you know, the luvvie with the beret.

Expect mentors Alastair Campbell, Deborah Meaden, Earl Spencer and Kate Silverton to offer a few last pearls of wisdom – you'd hope some of which might actually just be "shhhhhhhhh".

So who will claim the title of Britain's best young speaker and, furthermore, will anyone even care?

Taking boredom to new levels are orange Peter Andre and the even oranger Katie Price, who are currently



**TALK IS CHEAP:** Jeremy Stockwell, Jo Brand and John Amaechi, the judges on The Speaker

starring in their umpteenth own reality show. It's interesting only if to see what is happening to Jordan's – sorry, Katie's – face.

Her mug is starting to veer into Leslie Ash territory with a 'trout pout' that is verging on the utterly ridiculous. It's the only interesting thing here.

Whether it's Peter having trouble with the barbecue, or the couple quarrelling about the decorating, no subject seems too banal for inclusion.

Maybe the next series will be called Katie And Peter Walk The Dogs or Katie And Peter Get Root Canal.

Every moment is memorex'd with no miniscule or pointless exchange too stupid from which to escape.

It really makes you wonder if this was the good stuff, what was left on the cutting-room floor?

## YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21-Feb 19)

**MAKING** your home more comfortable should be your first priority. Usually you don't place much emphasis on material goods, but taking the time to decorate your place with comfy furnishings, attractive artwork and delectable food helps your escapist side.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



**TAURUS** (Apr 21-May 21)

**UPDATING** your look will give you a new lease on life. Spend some time looking through magazines for a new hairstyle. Alternately, you might want to add some fashionable items to your wardrobe. Take care to choose colours and cuts that look good on you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



**LEO** (Jul 24-Aug 23)

**TAKING** charge of your life is essential. Lately, you've been giving a loved one too much control over your decisions. Asserting your authority could put a temporary strain on your relationship, but don't worry. The old affection that first drew you together will resurface.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



**SCORPIO** (Oct 24-Nov 22)

**A NEW** affinity is possible with a business or romantic partner. The two of you need to be more honest in your communications in order to avoid the misunderstandings that pushed you apart in the past. Signing a contract or entering into a commercial alliance is also possible.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



**PISCES** (Feb 20-Mar 20)

**THIS** promises to be a very busy week for you. If you're going to maintain your sanity, you need to draw some strict boundaries. Above all, devote a few minutes each day to your own amusement. A few simple measures like these helps you to meet all of your varied obligations.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531753



**GEMINI** (May 22-Jun 22)

**PAY** careful attention to your dreams – they are trying to tell you something. Devoting more time to spiritual pursuits is essential to your happiness. If that means slowing down your social life, so be it. It's hard to think when you are always surrounded by people.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



**VIRGO** (Aug 24-Sep 23)

**DEVOTING** more time to intellectual pursuits will boost your spirits. Lately, you've been bogged down in mundane matters. Focusing on paying your bills and running errands has taken all the joy out of life. Give yourself permission to take an uncharted course.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23-Dec 21)

**THIS** is the best time of the year to get a new job. Opportunities in property, food and landscaping are especially viable. If you've been longing to get in shape, launch an exercise regimen. Once you build muscle, you'll shed pounds. Varying your routine is critical to maintaining it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



**ARIES** (Mar 21-Apr 20)

**TURN** over a new leaf as far as money is concerned. Getting more value for your hard-earned cash is essential. These days you can do price comparisons very easily. If you can get it for less, do. It's also possible to get a raise so approach your boss with a list of accomplishments.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



**CANCER** (Jun 23-Jul 23)

**SPENDING** time with friends will be great. It's been a long time since you were able to let your hair down with people you trust. If you've fallen out of touch with your nearest and dearest make a few phone calls. Your prolonged absence may have hurt some feelings.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



**LIBRA** (Sep 24-Oct 23)

**SPARKS** may be flying between you and someone close and it could be harder than you think to keep your feelings under control. Paying off a debt could finally become possible, too. By getting your bills out of the way you'll attain the financial freedom you've always desired.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22-Jan 20)

**AT** long last you're finally able to relax and unwind. Whether you take a vacation or just devote more time to your favourite activities doesn't matter. The important thing is to put work on the back burner. This can be difficult for a person like you, but give it a try anyway.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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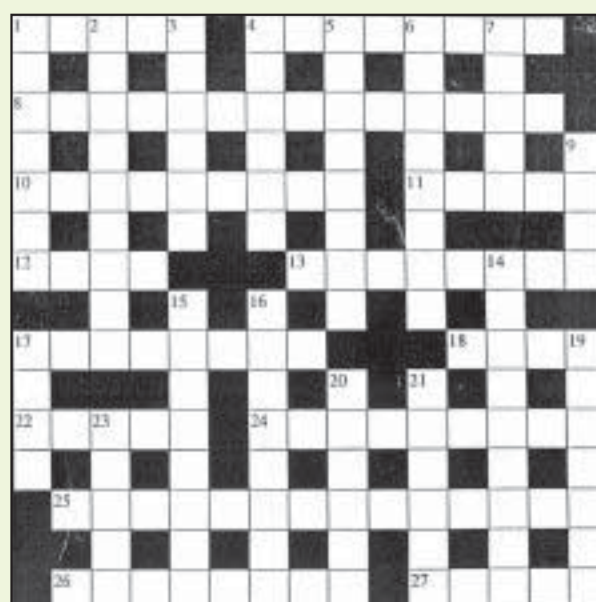
#### ACROSS

- 1 Animal crossing the road (5)
- 4 Whipped Commanding Officer heaved outside (8)
- 8 Obstacle one might trip over (9-5)
- 10 They may have a main source of income (9)
- 11 Part of TV to let off steam? (5)
- 12 See inside lower abdomen (4)
- 13 Like single chap in unison (2,3,3)
- 17 Settling argument which mother finished by taking in ruler! (6,2)
- 18 Loud explosive game (4)
- 22 Secret store of money reported (5)
- 24 Tasty recipe to me so hot (9)
- 25 Bruin's wearing glasses? (10,4)
- 26 In street and in court had strong natural impulse (8)
- 27 Lady's succeeded getting graduate in (5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Containing plenty of relish or lemon peel, say (7)
- 2 New part of Canada or old state of Germany (9)
- 3 Walker found frisky lamb expressing reluctance (6)
- 4 Throw one medal in during dance (6)
- 5 Player gets terrible roasting (8)
- 6 Pertinent about part of Middle East (8)
- 7 Surpass only half of the excellence (5)
- 9 A boy in France from Jane (4)
- 14 Gold fish in Mummy's large tomb (9)
- 15 Sell cheaper tenderloin (8)
- 16 Verse Iraq aunt composed (8)
- 17 Spice of authority (4)
- 19 Go too far and be swamped? (7)
- 20 I enter vacant room (6)
- 21 Dark dog (6)
- 23 Inca poncho covered bird (5)

### SCRIBBLE HERE



### QUICK CLUES

#### ACROSS

- 1 Insignia (5)
- 4 Unmarried man (8)
- 8 Embezzle (14)
- 10 Back to \_\_\_\_ (6,3)
- 11 Male singer (5)
- 12 Obligation (4)
- 13 Floor-covering (8)
- 17 Gradual disappearance (4-4)
- 18 Eyot (4)
- 22 Cuttlefish ink (5)
- 24 Military capability (9)
- 25 Crossword addict (14)
- 26 Male falcon (8)
- 27 Armed (anag.) (5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Bewildered (7)
- 2 Agitated (9)
- 3 Become invalid (6)
- 4 Russian wolfhound (6)
- 5 Prepare for printing (4-4)
- 6 Expulsion (8)
- 7 Many times (5)
- 9 Topmost edge (4)
- 14 Formerly (9)
- 15 West Indian islander (8)
- 16 Pollenosis (3,5)
- 17 Quick (4)
- 19 Mistake (7)
- 20 Biblical mount (6)
- 21 Rising (6)
- 23 Windcheater (5)

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## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

### SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No85

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



### CRYPTIC SOLUTION No84

ACROSS: 1 Medico 4 Vishnu 10 Dramatise or Dramatize 11 Enrol 12 Refresh 13 Not half 14 Acquired taste 16 Consequential 21 Askance 22 Dextral 24 Maize 25 Clutch bag 26 Dreamy 27 Oboist. DOWN: 1 Modern 2 Dwarf 3 Chateau 5 Inertia 6 Herbal tea 7 Uplift 8 High frequency 9 Penny-dreadful 15 Clockwise 17 Sunbeam 18 Taxicab 19 Jammed 20 Blight 23 Rabbi.

### QUICK SOLUTION No85

ACROSS: 1 Badge 4 Bachelor 8 Jamaican 16 Hay fever 17 Fast 19 Erratum 20 Avarice 21 Upward 23 Parka. DOWN: 1 Disturbed 3 Expire 4 Borzoi 5 Copy-edit 6 Lamented 27 Dream. DOWN: 1 Banned 2 Septa 24 Firepower 25 Cruciverbalist 26 Debt 13 Linoleum 17 Fade-away 18 Isle 22 Misappropriate 10 Square one 11 Tenor 12

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website





**JOKES AHoy:** Onboard the comedy cruise ship Island Star, travelling from Nice to Menorca in the Mediterranean

# It's fun and laughter while away at sea

■ BY MICHAEL O'FLAHERTY

YOU'RE joking! That was my reaction when I was invited to learn the art of cracking jokes on a comedy cruise sailing from Nice to Menorca in the Mediterranean.

And so I found myself on-stage aboard the good ship Island Star, trying to make 350 people laugh.

To say I was terrified would be the understatement of the decade.

Earlier in the day, for the cost of a fiver, I had taken a comedy 'master class' with instructor Miles Crawford, from the comedy group Jongleurs.

Before I braved the spotlight, Miles told me how to engage the audience, how to present myself and my material... and, above all, delivery.

So, in trembling tones, I delivered my short joke: "I was driving in Ireland from Cork to Donegal. I was very tired and stopped at a small hotel. I knocked on the door. A yawning night-porter came to the door.

"I asked if he had a room. 'No trouble at all,' he said. 'You wouldn't happen to have a room with a bath?' I asked. 'That's no trouble either,' said the porter.

"He pulled down a key and said 'You're in room number seven, sir... and the room with the bath is at the end of the corridor.'"

Laughter, applause! I was made! I introduced the next act and exited left.

I had flown to Pisa to join the Island Star in the middle of a Mediterranean cruise. Formerly called Horizon, with 10 decks and 753 comfortable cabins for 1,875 passengers tended by 573 crew, this impressive ship will be joining the Celebrity Cruises fleet during 2009.

It follows the merger of First Choice with Thomson within the TUI travel giant.

## Exhausted

The Island brand stands for casual cruising, with a slogan of "relaxed, informal and friendly".

Guided bike tours are another innovation. Some of my fellow passengers had survived a bike ride into Rome through its snarling, chaotic traffic.

They were therefore well equipped for the relatively calm bike tour I took after we docked in the beautiful port of Mahon in Menorca.

We set off on well-equipped mountain bikes with what seemed like dozens of gears. I struggled up the first hill and enjoyed a quiet ride out into the country.

Our ultimate goal, after more muscle-aching hills, was the beautiful beach of Binibeca, where I had a swim and bewailed my increasing saddle-soreness, and finally made it back to the ship exhausted after a 24-mile ride.

At dinner I was recognised by some of the passengers – the result of the comedy night. I was a celebrity! Then I saw they were laughing again – at my bandy-legged, saddle-sore walk.

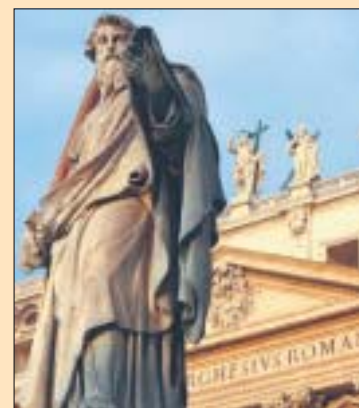
That night I enjoyed a gourmet dinner in the elegant Oasis restaurant. There are also seven bars, ranging from The Pub, which is as its name sounds, to the quieter, wood-panelled Captain's Club.

The Oasis is the only restaurant on the ship where people dress for dinner and costs extra, as did the slightly less formal Steak House; the other restaurants are free.

And what of my fellow passengers? Relaxed, friendly and informal, as indicated by the slogan of the ship.

If any of us had wished to get married on board, it would have been no problem at all – nor would special anniversary and birthday celebrations... even a renewal of wedding vows. But I was happy to stick to the jokes.

## FACT FILE: MEDITERRANEAN



**WHEN IN ROME:** Enjoy a day in this fascinating city

## Travel Facts

- Michael O'Flaherty was a guest of Island Cruises, which offers seven-night Western Mediterranean fly-cruises out of Palma, Majorca, from March 31, 2009, from £649, calling at Olbia (Sardinia), Civitavecchia (Rome), Livorno (Florence/Pisa), Villefranche (France) and Mahon (Menorca). Price is based on two adults sharing inside cabin on Aqua deck and includes return flights and transfers.

- Guided bike tours cost £29, except a full day in Rome, which is £49.

- Although Michael O'Flaherty's comedy master class with Jongleurs cost only £5, it sadly won't be available in 2009 – although Island Escape will carry professional comedians to entertain passengers through summer 2009.

- Island Escape enquiries: 0127 362 7843 and [www.islandcruises.com](http://www.islandcruises.com).

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## ON GENERAL RELEASE

### STATE OF PLAY (12A)



This film adaptation of the critically acclaimed television series, stars Ben Affleck as an up and coming U.S. Congressman, whose career is threatened when his research assistant/mistress is murdered.

### I LOVE YOU MAN (15)



Peter is engaged to the woman of his dreams. In a series of 'man dates' to find a best man, he meets Sydney, the best friend he never had, but is forced to choose between his fiancée and his new buddy.

### MONSTERS VS ALIENS (PG)



When Susan Murphy (Reese Witherspoon) grows to 49ft 11in, she is taken to a secret government compound that houses a selection of monsters who are called upon to save the world.

# It's a funny road making it in Hollywood for Anna

■ BY ELLIE GENOWER

ANNA Faris may be fast becoming famous as one of the funniest ladies in Hollywood, but the bubbly blonde actress says she wasn't always known for her comic touch.

"I had been in local theatres – all dramatic and never thought of myself as a comedian in any form," she says of her early acting experiences. "In fact nobody did – nobody thought I was funny at all."

So it's funny now that Anna, who stars alongside Seth Rogen in the new dark comedy *Observe And Report*, is bucking the current trend towards male-heavy 'bromances' or buddy movies.

"There's an audience for female-driven comedy and I'm hoping to produce and create some more stuff," the 32-year-old says.

"It's fun to play with the boys a little bit in *Observe And Report* though."

*Observe And Report* sees Anna play a department store make-up girl who is the object of security guard Ronnie's infatuation. Ronnie, a delusional and misguided dreamer played by Seth Rogen, spends much of the film trying to catch the mall's elusive perv.

At the same time, he tries his best to join the police force and woo Brandi, the woman of his dreams, who he doesn't realise is actually a rather mean, selfish character.

"I was really happy, because it's very rare that you come across a character that's so offensive and awful. It's like taking a bite of a juicy apple, but naughty," Anna says.

"It's really fun for me to play a character that makes no apologies for herself. She's definitely the worst character I've ever played. She's selfish, rude, catty, bitchy, dopey and tacky."

But *Observe And Report* isn't just your aver-



BUBBLY: Anna Faris stars in *Observe and Report*

age Hollywood comedy. Its plot takes humour to some pretty dark places and Anna confesses she has a few worries about her parents watching a particularly drunken love scene between Brandi and Ronnie.

"I told them they needed to drink a bunch of wine, at least three bottles, before seeing the movie so maybe they would pass out before they got to the love making scenarios!" she says.

However, the tougher scenes were made easier by her "awesome" co-star Seth Rogen.

Seth returns the compliment, describing Anna's performance in *Observe And Report* as

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"the type of performance I don't think a lot of women would do".

It's all a long way from Anna's roots in Seattle where she grew up with "pretty conservative" parents. She cut her acting chops on small productions before landing a part in the first *Scary Movie*. Subsequent memorable roles in the likes of *Friends* and *Lost In Translation* led to the lead role in *House Bunny*, which she also produced.

But despite the call of stardom, she has managed to keep much of her personal life out of the tabloids, largely staying off the paparazzi radar. "I lead such a boring life," she says.

"Nobody pays attention. If somebody does take my picture, I'm eating a burrito in my sweats and my mouth is open. I'm kind of a disgusting, boring person."

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## Cinema

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Thur 7 May



- ▶ **Slumdog Millionaire** 15  
Fri – Sun 6.20pm
- ▶ **Doubt** 15  
Fri 1 – Sun 3 – 8.50pm
- ▶ **Katyn** 18  
Sat – 2.50pm
- ▶ **Breathless (A bout de souffle)** PG  
Sun – 2.50pm
- ▶ **Gran Torino** 15  
Tue – Thur – 6.50pm

Booking Office: 01227 769075  
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**Wild Wood Theatre**  
**The Frog Princess**  
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## WOMEN seeking men

### TAKE ME FOR WHO I AM

Hi I'm Sam, 22, looking for a relationship. I'm blonde, have brown eyes, love cosy nights in and cinema, looking to share a relationship. Box 447871

### SWEET DEBS

Hopeful, happy, shy girl, 22, loves all the normal stuff about life, searching for a mature guy, 24-39, for loving friendship and happiness. Box 880373

### SINGLE DADS WELCOME

Curvy single mum, 23, cuddly and lovely, 5ft6, blonde and blue-eyed, like a drink, animals, reading, cinema, looking for honest, trustworthy and caring male. Box 451249

### MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male, 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 446756

### GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471

### SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, tons of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

### STACEY LOOKING FOR HER GAVIN

Slim, blue eyed beauty, 31, Tunbridge Wells, loving, caring, very genuine. Wanting someone to cuddle up with at night and have lots of laughs with. Box 881494

### LTR WANTED

Easy-going black female, 32, medium build, likes football, cooking and socialising, looking for a non-smoking, loving and caring white male, 25-48, Eastbourne Box 449294

### HAPPY SHOPPER!

Easygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLTm loving, caring white male, 35-47, for long-term, loving relationship. No time-wasters. Box 442414

### CARING, CONSIDERATE, HOPEFULLY YOUNG

Lovely young lady, 33, 5ft8, cuddly larger build, single mum, seeking kind, caring, honest and genuine man for friendship...hopefully more. Box 450371

### HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, nature, likes, WLTm intelligent, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

### CHATHAM UP!

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chatham. Box 437778

### CUDDLY FEMALE

32, 5ft9, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh and WLTm nice, kind gent. Box 394042

### FIT FOR FUN

Petite, dark-haired girl, 33, 5ft, fit, loves badminton, cinema and more, searching for an active man, with heart and soul. Box 881047

### HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tall, WLTm intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

### SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

## A NEW FUTURE!

I'm Rachel, 35, medium, enjoys pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, cinema, theme parks, looking someone special to share things with. Box 446891

## GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim build, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTm honest, reliable man. Box 451311

## LIVING IT

Fair-haired female, 35, 5ft, loves the gym, pubs, nights out and fine company, searching for fun bloke, for life, love and laughter. Box 881011

## LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

## WHERE LOVE TAKES US

Attractive woman, great personality to go with, looking to meet a fit, tall, well-built black male, 35-55, for fun times, hopefully romance. Box 450650

## A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Easygoing blonde animal lover, 41, easygoing, tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema, pubs, looking for loyal, caring, funny man, 35-45. Box 451079

## FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTm fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

## ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Hello, I'm Nikki, 41yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema, dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance, fun times. Box 444796

## LIFE IS GIVING LOVE A GUARANTEE

Down-to-earth lady, 42, sincere, honest and reliable, looking for a male for friendship first, going out, enjoying evenings and perhaps something more later on. Box 449712

## COSY TIMES TOGETHER

Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling and a nice evening cuddled up. Box 881545

## LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out, etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

## LET'S CLICK

WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature. I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847

## ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37yr old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, loving, honest and trusting male to be my someone special. Box 446552

## HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440682

## MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053

## SEIZING THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428696

## BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614

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## CUTE AS CAN BE

Cute, single mum of 4, 38yrs old, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 887983

## ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!

Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

## THE SIMPLE THINGS...

I like reading/writing, going out, music. Seeking kind, genuine, honest chap; I'm a 40yr old woman who enjoys the simple things in life. Box 448542

## YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 39yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes days out music, concerts, cinema, walks, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship, relationship. Box 901893

## JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl, great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434

## SOUND GOOD?

Medium build brunette, 40, 5ft7, single mum, enjoy bowling and water-sports, looking for a tall, non-smoking, white male for a stable and affectionate relationship. Box 450658

## A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

## A HEART FULL OF LOVE

Nice looking, 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTm a genuine white male with GSOH for a fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890

## WHERE LOVE TAKES US

Attractive woman, great personality to go with, looking to meet a fit, tall, well-built black male, 35-55, for fun times, hopefully romance. Box 450650

## A FAIRY TALE ENDING

Easygoing blonde animal lover, 41, easygoing, tactile, enjoy eating out, cinema, pubs, looking for loyal, caring, funny man, 35-45. Box 451079

## FANCY A DRINK?

Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTm fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

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Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out, etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

## LET'S CLICK

WLTm a nice guy with a similar nature. I'm an outgoing woman, 42, with brown hair and green eyes. Tell me about you! Box 446847

## THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156

## A FINE ROMANCE

Pleasant female, 43, medium/large build, blue/green eyes, grown up children, beach walks, relaxing, reading, winning, seeks sincere male with GSOH, for LTR. Box 429071

## COME ON DOWN!

Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882963

## LOVING IT LARGE

Spiritual 44yr old female, enjoy gardening, cooking and walks on the beach, WLTm a warm, loving and caring male for friendship, maybe a LTR. Box 444803

## FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Understanding, caring female, 45, 5ft4, medium build, brown hair, likes cinema, animals, music, romantic pubs, seeking male for cuddles, hugs and more. Box 444873

## SOUND GOOD?

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTm a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

## A HEART FULL OF LOVE

Nice looking, 41yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTm a genuine white male with GSOH for a fun filled friendship/relationship. Box 450890

## WHERE LOVE TAKES US

Attractive woman, great personality to go with, looking to meet a fit, tall, well-built black male, 35-55, for fun times, hopefully romance. Box 450650

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## CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings Box 471001

## THE REAL THING

Lively bubbly lady, 52, brown hair blue eyes, 5ft7, medium build, likes travel and walks, documentaries, films, seeking male with GSOH for fun-loving relationship. Box 451255

## LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Smart petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795

## A COMPANION FOR LIFE?

Blonde lady, 56, 5ft5, medium build, plays hard! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

## ALL I WANT IS YOU

33yr old male, 5ft4, medium build, likes animals, films, arts and historical sites, WLTm female, similar interests, for friendship, hopefully spend Christmas together. Box 446112

## BOTTLE OF WINE

Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

## NOTHING TO LOSE

Attractive single father, 35, 5ft7, brown eyes, medium build, laid-back, looking for someone similar to enjoy films, socialising and hopefully love... Box 451286

## EXPERIENCE MATTERS

Down-to-earth sincere and intelligent guy, 36, looking for mature lady for friendship and possible relationship. Box 451231

## EVERYTHING I DO

Female, 36yr old, 5ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, WLTm a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

## THE GOOD LIFE

Blonde male, 37, 5ft9, love golf, don't mind a beer, WLTm an open-minded female for good times, maybe a relationship. Box 450544

## TIME'S ON OUR SIDE!

Adventurer, 38, medium build, 5ft8, love my motorbikes and cars, gigs and especially road trips! Looking for female 30-40 who's outgoing, for fun and friendship. Box 450533

## STICK WITH YOU

Attentive 38yr old male, looking for a special lady to slowly re-discover all the finer things in life with. Box 450524

## LOOKING FOR A BIKER LADY!

Interests: music, bikes, cars, travel, cosy nights in. I'm male, 38, kind, genuine, down-to-earth, loving, 5ft9, slim, shaved head, blue eyes. WLTm genuine, biker lady. Box 451302

## LOVING BY THE BEACH

Hi I'm Kevin, 37, 6ft1, medium build, loves cinema, music, walks and the sea, seeking similar guy to find love with. Box 449844

## ADAM SEEKS EVE

Hi I'm Adam, 38, 5ft7, into fitness, fun and games, looking for someone to go out with and share great times. Box 449898

## HAVE FAITH

Loving, caring, generous spiritual man, 39, 6ft, black hair blue eyes, loves reading and science, looking for a woman to have a good relationship with. Box 451169

## A MAN OF FEW WORDS, BUT MUCH LOVE

Hi, 40yr old fun-loving male, looking to meet slim fun-loving female, looks important, for hopeful LTR. Many hobbies! Box 450819

## TLC ON OFFER

Good-looking man, 40, 5ft7, medium build, dark brown eyes, like travelling, sport and adventures, looking for a girl, same interests, 20-33, for friendship/romance. Hastings Box 450613

## HI THERE I'M...

Brian, 40, 5ft8, hazel eyes, black hair, into sport and keeping fit, looking for a special lady to share the good and the bad with. Box 450563

## FRIENDS FIRST

Outgoing, young-minded man, 40, 5ft7, blue eyes/blond hair, slim/average build. I'm easygoing and relaxed and like like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 451361

## LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing, young-minded man, 40, 5ft7, blue eyes/blond hair, slim/average build. I'm easygoing and relaxed and like like travel, music, film, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 443750



## MEN seeking women

### FOR LOVE

Hard-working male, 29, 5ft10, dark hair, brown eyes, medium build, plays harder! likes going/eating out, walks, pubs, loves life, seeking happy, trustworthy lady. Box 442752

### ALL I WANT IS YOU

33yr old male, 5ft4, medium build, likes animals, films, arts and historical sites, WLTm female, similar interests, for friendship, hopefully spend Christmas together. Box 446112

### BOTTLE OF WINE

Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks,



## PROPERTY NEWS

### Rise in unemployment prompts rent warning

LANDLORDS are being urged to find ways to ensure they receive their rent as the jobs market is so precarious.

Property website Smartlandlord.co.uk advised those renting out homes to be extra cautious after it released figures showing an increasing number of unemployed people were renting.

A year ago only 3.1 per cent of new tenants renting private property were unemployed but that figure has risen to 7.8 per cent.

Keshav Thukaram, managing director of Smartlandlord, said: "With the social housing sector ill-equipped to cope with the extra demand, private landlords are increasingly being called upon to take in unemployed people on benefit."

"There is evidence that some landlords are suffering because benefits aren't being paid on time, so landlords taking this route must ensure they know their rights, and apply to have the rent paid directly by the council if they experience problems."

The numbers of self-employed and retired tenants have also risen. Mr Thukaram urged landlords to run checks on new tenants, but also to ensure rents are secure should their tenants' financial circumstances change.

### Negative equity is back but burden is shared

RESEARCH by the Council of Mortgage Lenders shows negative equity – where a home is worth less than its mortgage – has become an increasing problem because of falling house prices.

However, the group added that two thirds of those with negative equity were experiencing only "modest shortfalls" of ten per cent or less, and the scale of the issue needs to be kept in perspective, as home-owners still have about £2.1 trillion of unmortgaged housing equity.

Bob Pannell, the council's head of research, said: "Although negative equity has resurfaced as house prices have fallen, one big difference from the early 1990s downturn is that it is less concentrated among young, first-time buyers, and more evenly spread across wider age groups and those at different points on the housing ladder."

At the bottom of the last housing market recession in 1993, 1.5 million households were in negative equity.

The council said today's borrowers were following the pattern seen in the 1990s and choosing to stay put, waiting to recover their equity position.



# Missed opportunity as Chancellor overlooks needs of the market

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Budget for the next financial year has come under fire from two influential groups for not doing enough to help lift the property market out of the slump.

The Association of Residential Letting Agents (Arla) attacked Chancellor Alistair Darling's Budget, announced in the Commons last week, calling it "wholly unsatisfactory" for having failed to give incentives for landlords to improve rental housing for a growing number of tenants.

And the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) said the policies put forward were ineffectual and would do nothing to help the economy recover.

It wanted more to be done to encourage first-time buyers on to the housing ladder to get the market going again.

Ian Potter, operations manager of Arla, said: "Alistair Darling had a clear opportunity to improve the bottom end of the rental market and chose to maintain the status quo for Britain's worse-off tenants."

"Yet again Gordon Brown's administration has wasted an opportunity to improve the quality of stock of lettings property by failing to incentivise landlords through tax relief on labour and materials."

"Not only would this have helped to stimulate the market, particularly in the construction sector, but it would also have provided the greater standards of rented accommodation that this country desperately needs."

"Landlords should be recognised for what they bring not only to the housing market but to the wider economy and treated as any other responsible business."

In its Budget submission, Arla also called on the Government to introduce capital allowances for landlords improving housing stock over a certain age.

A second attack came from the influential estate agents' group who said there was no help for those trying to get on the housing ladder.

Peter Bolton King, chief executive of NAEA, said: "The housing market is the engine of the UK economy and it is likely that this Budget will be remembered as largely ineffectual, given the magnitude of the problem."

"There is very little here for first-time buy-



**MONEY BOX:** Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling outside 11 Downing Street on Budget day

ers, who need more encouragement to climb on to the property ladder which will get everything moving.

"Mr Darling has used a water pistol to try to put out a fire."

Mr Bolton King also attacked the extension of the £175,000 stamp duty land tax threshold as not going far enough to make any significant impact.

He said: "Merely extending the stamp duty threshold is disappointing. Mr Darling had a real opportunity to get rid of this hated tax,

which is seen by many as a tax on aspiration."

"Since the threshold was introduced last autumn it has helped just one third of first-time buyers."

"In this difficult economic time, Mr Darling could have seized the opportunity to encourage first-time buyers to the market and to send a signal of confidence that may have reverberated around the economy."

"Instead he has tried to choose a path to please everyone, which I suspect will please no one."

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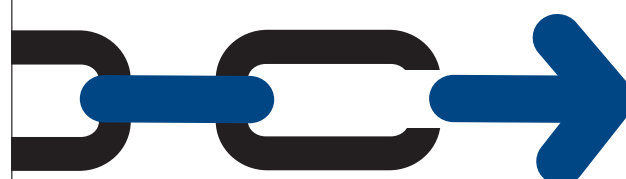


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## MOTORS NEWS



### VW dealer defies motor sales trend on used cars

BEADLES VW of Maidstone has bucked the economic trend by boosting used car sales 32 per cent in 2009's tricky first quarter. Sales overall are up six per cent too against early 2008.

Keith Dowle, brand manager at the Quarry Wood site, attributed the sales team's (pictured) success in challenging times to pricing plus strong branding and residual values. He said the showroom had also been praised for customer service, monitored using mystery shopper and customer satisfaction surveys.



### Barretts Jaguar is the tops with customers

BARRETTS Jaguar of Canterbury has taken the number one slot in Jaguar UK's customer loyalty and satisfaction award.

Key factors included good customer relationships, ensuring cars were delivered on time and dealing with any subsequent needs professionally and efficiently.

Accepting the 2008 award at a ceremony in Vienna, sales manager Jon Mason (pictured left with Jaguar UK sales director David Lewis) said: "Here at Barretts Jaguar we have always been proud of going that extra mile."



### Meaner and leaner the new Freelander arrives

LAND Rover's most fuel-efficient vehicle ever is now available at Barretts, Ashford.

Dealer principal Mark Nicholas, said there had been eager anticipation of the new Freelander 2 TD4e with stop-start, which cuts the engine to avoid unnecessary fuel use and emissions when stopped and then smoothly restarts it when needed, saving some 20 per cent fuel in traffic.

Mr Nicholas said: "Sophisticated controls ensure the Stop/Start system does not compromise the needs of either the driver or the dynamics of the vehicle."



**TOUGH LOVE:** Keenly-priced and racy looking, the estate version of the Kia Ceed SW looks impressive against the more conventional looking Ford Focus, Vauxhall Astra and VW Golf

# Family workhorse comes with thoroughbred appeal

LOOKING for a family workhorse and can't stand the idea of an MPV? Here's a no-brainer option – the Kia Ceed SW.

It's a keenly-priced, racy-looking estate version of the Korean marque's stylish, but slightly less dynamic, rival to the best-selling Ford Focus.

A £700 premium over the hatchback also brings the same unique seven-year/100,000-mile warranty – perhaps even more important if you need to work your estate car hard.

Okay, that fastback styling might not look best for ultimate capacity in load lugging, but it adds 235mm onto the rear section of the hatch version and the tailgate hinges inboard to reduce the upswing and outswing – owners can stand closer to the car and access the boot in tighter spaces.

Boot and maximum load space with seats up is 534 litres – helped by excellent underfloor stowage bins – and 1,664 litres with rear seats folded, compared with 340 and 1,300 respectively for the hatchback Ceed. This makes the SW impressive against estates with more conventional looks too such as the Ford Focus

## ROAD TEST KIA CEED SW

BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

(503 and 1546), Vauxhall Astra (470 and 1550) and new VW Golf Estate (505 and 1550).

Equally impressive is the 113bhp 1.6-litre diesel of our £15,545 LS-spec test car. It is a cracking all-rounder for a potentially hard-working estate car like this and can average nearly 60mpg. It is easily the best power option, though you can also have a 120bhp 1.6-litre petrol, 89bhp 1.6 diesel or 138bhp 2.0 diesel.

And you can forget about plasticky Korean interiors of the past with the intoxicating whiff of Airfix modelling glue; the Ceed range has been designed to be European and is churned out in a state-of-the-art plant in Slovakia with the fit, finish and touch of the interior matching Western standards and even includes an iPod/MP3 player connection that really does work... unlike some.

However, the Ceed's ride can be fidgety and it feels vague when pushed hard on a winding road, though grip is good.

On the other hand, you should view the Ceed SW more as an unbreakable workhorse pitched against van-based MPVs and the likes of Skoda's Roomster and Vauxhall's Meriva, as well as Focus-class estates.

With prices from £12,995, it's a no-brainer.



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## USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

## NON GERMAN COMPACT EXECUTIVE CARS [carsforKent.co.uk](http://carsforKent.co.uk)

BMW'S all-conquering 3-Series compact executive model is a top-ten seller in the UK. Its German rivals – the Mercedes C-Class and Audi A4 – are never far behind either, but you can buy status, quality and style elsewhere... and save money. The Lexus IS series is a good alternative, but we reckon there are better bargains in the current climate; check out these three distinctive offerings from different nations to suit various tastes, pockets and space requirements. Don't judge them at face value either, because a test drive tells the true story.

### HONDA ACCORD



IS it a prestige badge or not? Even Honda is unclear about that. There is no doubting Honda quality, but everyday models like the Jazz supermini – though a marvellous car – harm Honda's argument that the Accord deserves mention alongside the BMW 3-Series. Nevertheless, the Honda is beautifully made, offers a sporting drive and is probably the car least likely to fail en route to a top-level meeting. The diesel's quiet and refined too and the previous generation estate is capacious.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### JAGUAR X-TYPE



IT was a slow burn for X-Type sales, highlighted by faltering residuals in the early days. Jag snobs didn't like it being derived from the front driven Mondeo, although Ford-owned Jaguar deflected this by offering the car in Audi-style all-wheel drive only at first. But the 'X' is reliable, drives well in all forms and the smooth diesels and a lovely estate (pictured) redeemed its status. However, used values have stumbled recently and there are serious bargains to be had.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

### VOLVO S40



OUR smallest contender here, and Volvo's best-ever junior model by far, the S40 shows all the benefits of belonging to the Ford empire while retaining its own Swedish style. It is built on a modified front-driven Ford Focus chassis – nothing wrong there as it's one of the best for keen drivers – while the styling is pure Volvo, complete with scalloped rear wings and tail lights. Inside, is classic Scandinavian too: neat and well arranged, plus an innovative 'flying' centre console.

#### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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<b>CORSA</b>							
2002	02*	Corsa Sri	1.8	3	Black sapphire	37,450	£3,995
2008	08	New Corsa Breeze CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	1,880	£9,195
2008	08	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	5	Star silver	3,265	£9,995
2008	08	Corsa Club A/c	1.2	5	Silver lightening	5,550	£8,995
2008	58	Corsa Sxi CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	4,200	£9,995
2008	58	New Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Metro blue	5,770	£10,995
2008	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	3	Star silver	5,100	£9,695
2008	58	Corsa Active CDTi	1.3D	3	Metro blue	8,000	£9,295
2008	58	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Star silver	4,640	£9,495
2008	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.2	3	Silver lightening	3,675	£9,495
2008	58	Corsa Life A/c	1.2	3	Air blue	3,240	£8,995
2008	58	Corsa Club CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	3,325	£10,695
<b>ASTRA</b>							
2002	02*	Astra Club Auto	1.6	5	Mirage	51,000	£3,495
2004	54*	Astra Club CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver	60,675	£4,995
2005	05	Astra Design	1.6	5	Black sapphire	56,890	£5,995
2006	06	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Metro blue	23,100	£8,395
2007	07	Astra Sri TBO	1.6	5	Black sapphire	14,600	£8,995
2007	07	Astra Design Hatch (panoramic roof)	1.6	3	Flame red	14,050	£9,495
2007	07	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Panacotta	17,250	£13,995
2007	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Panacotta	8,275	£9,495
2007	57	Astra Club CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	10,680	£8,995
2008	58	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.4	3	Black sapphire	3,100	£10,795
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	£11,495
2008	58	Astra Club CDTi Estate	1.7D	5	Technical grey	14,450	£10,995
2008	58	Astra Sri Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	6,650	£10,995
2008	58	Astra Breeze	1.4	5	Black sapphire	4,600	£9,995
<b>ANTARA</b>							
2008	08	Antara S CDTi Auto	2.0	5	Slate blue	5,350	£15,995
<b>AGILA</b>							
2001	94*	Agila	1.2	5	Blue	33,850	£2,395
2004	54	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lilac	28,500	£4,195
<b>MERIVA</b>							
2005	05	Meriva Energy MTA	1.6	5	Black sapphire	32,850	£5,495
2008	58	Meriva Design Ex pack	1.8	5	Air blue	2,375	£11,495
2008	58	Meriva CDTi Breeze Plus	1.3	5	Black sapphire	10,930	£11,495
<b>VECTRA</b>							
2007	07	Vectra Exclusiv Estate CDTi	1.9D	5	Metro blue	17,100	£8,995
2008	57	Vectra CDTi Exclusive Auto	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	5,870	£10,995
2008	58	Vectra Elite CDTi (150ps)	1.9D	5	Panacotta	7,050	£14,995
<b>ZAFIRA</b>							
2005	05	Zafira Life	1.8	5	Ultra blue	38,250	£5,995
2008	08	New Zafira Breeze CDTi +	1.9D	5	Star silver	5,950	£12,895
2008	58	Zafira Breeze CDTi Plus	1.9D	5	Metro blue	12,600	£13,995
<b>NON VAUXHALL</b>							
2002	52*	Fiat Punto Active Sport	1.2	3	Metallic red	61,500	£2,995
2004	54*	Fiesta Lx	1.2	5	Red	27,100	£4,695
2006	56*	Hyundai Coupe Atlantic	2.0	2	Silver	17,200	£7,995
<b>DUE SOON</b>							
2005	55	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Flame red	53,000	£4,995
2005	55	Corsa Sxi E/T	1.3	3	Black	50,000	£4,995
2006	06	Astra Club Auto	1.8	5	Panacotta	22,500	£6,995
2006	06	Astra Sport Twin top	1.8	2	Ultra blue	14,000	£8,995
2008	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	16,000	£9,995
2008	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	TBA	£10,995
2006	56	Meriva Breeze	1.6	5	Star silver	21,000	£6,495
2005	05	Zafira Design (150ps)	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	41,450	£7,995
2004	04	Vectra Sri Auto	2.2	5	Star silver	48,000	£4,995
2008	08	Vectra Sri X Pack	1.8	5	Black sapphire	13,250	£9,995
2004	54*	Kia Picanto	1.1	5	Blue	41,000	£3,295
<b>COMMERCIALS</b>							
2008	58	Corsavan	1.3 CDTi		White	Delivery	£6,995+VAT
2007	57	Combo	1.3 CDTi		White	Delivery	£7,495+VAT
2008	08	Vivaro	2.0 CDTi		White	Delivery	£10,295+VAT
2008	08	Vivaro	2.0 CDTi		Black	Delivery	£11,495+VAT
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0 CDTi		Black	Delivery	£11,995+VAT
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0 CDTi		Black	Delivery	£13,995+VAT
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0 CDTi		Silver	Delivery	£13,995+VAT
2008	58	Vivaro	2.0 CDTi		Blue	Delivery	£11,995+VAT
2007	07	Astravan	1.9 CDTi	Sportive	Moonland	25,000	£7,995+VAT
2008	08	Astravan SE	1.9D	Sportive	Star silver	5,760	£10,995+VAT
2008	08	Astravan Club	1.7D	Plylined	White	7,000	£8,995+VAT
2007	07	Combo	1.3D	Crew van	White	8,700	£7,995+VAT
2008	08	Combo	1.3D	Air con	Silver	1,218	£7,995+VAT
2008	08	Combo	1.3D	CDTi	White	19,500	£6,995+VAT
2008	08	Combo	1.3D	CDTi	White	4,250	£7,995+VAT
2006	56	Movano	2.5	CDTi LWB	Silver	19,700	£9,995+VAT
2007	57	Movano	2.5D	CDTi	White	10,300	£12,995+VAT
2008	08	Movano	2.5 CDTi	MWB	White	11,050	£11,995+VAT
2008	08	Movano	2.5D	LWB	White	6,460	£13,995+VAT
2005	55*	Vivaro	1.9D	LWB	Red	57,500	£8,995+VAT

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Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.  
We are currently looking for a  
**TEACHER FOR PUPILS WITH SEVERE AND PROFOUND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES TO COMMENCE SEPT 2009**  
**MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C (with previous experience) £2422**  
The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.  
Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed  
This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.  
**Closing Date: 8th May 2009**  
For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338224), stating the position for which you are applying.

**WEST HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
DARTFORD ROAD, DARTFORD, KENT DA1 3DZ  
TEL: 01322 226019 FAX: 01322 220121  
E.mail: [office@west-hill.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@west-hill.kent.sch.uk)  
Age range: 5-11 N.O.R. 490  
Headteacher: Mrs Pauline Hindle

**Do you wish to join a lively talented and friendly staff?**

Post 1

**REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2009 A KS1 OR LOWER KS2 TEACHER**

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic teacher to work in KS1 or Year 3 or Year 4. This position would be suitable for experienced teachers and NQT's. Applicants are asked to identify curriculum areas in which they can offer expertise. The school has a commitment to the professional development of staff.

Post 2

**TEMPORARY POSITION REQUIRED FROM SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2009 A 0.4 FTE UPPER KS2 TEACHER (WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS BEING EXTENDED)**

A teacher to release the deputy head for 2 days each week. The successful applicant must be committed to high expectations, have a thorough knowledge of the National Curriculum and the Year 6 curriculum. Applicants must be committed to fully contribute to the life of the school.

West Hill is a successful and popular school with well behaved and motivated children. At the heart of the school's philosophy is the development of the whole child.

If you would like to learn more about the school please send for an information pack. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

**Completed application forms should be forwarded to the headteacher by 8th May 2009.**

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**THE KING'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY**



**Part-time Gardener**

Required to work 20 hours per week at our Junior School in Sturry, Canterbury

There is a possibility that this post could become full-time in the future.

The King's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

For an application form, please email the School's Personnel Department on [recruitment@kings-bursary.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@kings-bursary.co.uk) or telephone on 01227 595655 (24 hour answerphone)

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 7th May 2009



## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

### Learning Resource Centre Assistant

Ref: P0282

37 hours per week, 40 weeks per year

Salary: £9,939 - £17,750 pro rata

We are looking for an enthusiastic candidate to assist the efficient running of the Learning Resource Centre, ensuring the delivery of high quality, customer focused, easily accessible services to all users. The successful candidate will be responsible for Library administrative and organisational duties and have good communication and IT skills.

### Lecturer in Hair Design

Ref: P0342

22 hours per week

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 pro rata

We have an exciting opportunity to recruit a passionate individual to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicant must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

### Technician in Beauty

Ref: P0277

Salary: £11,479 - £17,750

The College is looking to recruit a highly motivated individual to provide guidance and support to learners and assist with the running of various Clinics. You will be able to demonstrate good organisational and communication skills and relevant experience within the beauty industry would be advantageous.

### Administrative Apprentice

Ref: P0594

Salary: £6,171

As a member of the Business Development Team you will provide administrative support to the College stakeholders. The successful candidate will develop competencies to meet NVQ Level 2 Standards of performance.

### Hourly Paid Lecturer in Plumbing and Heating

Ref: SE004

£20.37 - £28.67 per hour

An opportunity has arisen within the Construction and Engineering Department for a Lecturer to contribute to the delivery and development of Level 3 Plumbing, Heating and Gas Programmes. The successful candidate will have current knowledge of the Building Engineering Industry and a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards one; an Assessors qualification would be advantageous.

### Hourly Paid Lecturer in Business

Ref: SE005

£20.37 - £28.67 per hour

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to teach BTEC National and First Diploma Business programmes. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification and be able to deliver Key Skills to a level 2 standard.

### Hourly Paid Lecturer in Healthcare

Ref: SE007

£20.37 - £28.67 per hour

The post holder will be involved in the delivery of Healthcare programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

### Hourly Paid Lecturer in Public Services

Ref: SE008

£20.37 - £28.67 per hour

We are seeking an enthusiastic Lecturer to teach a range of BTEC and school links programmes. The successful candidate will have relevant experience within Public Services and hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification.

### Hourly Paid Lecturer in IT

Ref: SE006

£20.37 - £28.67 per hour

The College is looking to recruit a passionate individual to teach BTEC National and First Diploma IT programmes. The successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification and be able to deliver Key Skills to a level 2 standard.

### Hourly Paid Lecturer in Childcare

Ref: SE009

£20.37 - £28.67 per hour

We are looking to recruit an individual to deliver and teach Childcare programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Childcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

**Closing date: Friday 15 May 2009**

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



## VACANCY FOR A DEPUTY MANAGER IN A CARE HOME REGISTERED FOR 29 YOUNG ADULTS WITH AUTISM / ASPERGERS SYNDROME

- NVQ 4 in Care Qualified preferred, however other relevant Qualifications considered, funding available for NVQ 4
- Two years experience in a managerial position working with young adults with autism spectrum conditions
- Driver essential

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm plus on call  
Salary dependent on qualifications & experience £18,000 - £20,000 p.a.

**Closing date for application 22 May 2009**

For an application form & job description please phone 01797 363550  
The Springs Community, St. Mary's Bay, Kent

### FAVERSHAM UMBRELLA

Reg. Charity 1027436

Arden Next-Step Workshop for Young Adults



### Requires an Assistant Workshop Manager

The Arden Workshop is a 'Big Lottery' funded Mental Health Project offering practical activity through Art, Crafts and Woodwork, to empower people to re-enter mainstream society.

The Assistant Workshop Manager must be motivated and self disciplined and have the ability to assist the Manager to both organise the daily running of the Workshops, and to have the skills required to instigate, activate and oversee the projects made in the Arden Workshop. Art / Craft and Woodworking skills are essential as you will need to provide art/craft and woodworking based activities. This is a position which requires a confident and responsible person who is patient and caring and has an empathy with vulnerable young adults. The position will require a CRB check.

Hours of work are Mon - Thurs inclusive 9.30 - 3.30. Salary £9360 rising to £9984 following a 3 month probationary period.

Applications should be made in writing to:- The Centre Manager Faversham Umbrella, Umbrella Building, Court St. Faversham, Kent. ME13 7AT  
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### Saint George's Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS

Tel: 01474 533082

Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College  
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

### PRINCIPAL TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

Required for September 2009

TLR1 (£8,975)

Following the promotion of the current post holder we wish to appoint an excellent classroom practitioner to inspire and lead our mathematics team. You will have the enthusiasm and energy to drive the development of effective teaching and learning for the 21st century.

### TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS

Required for September 2009

Main Pay Scale

We are looking for a well-qualified and innovative mathematician.

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over-subscribed comprehensive school. These posts come at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email [dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk](mailto:dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk) or visit our website

[www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk](http://www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk)

Closing Date: 8 May 2009

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### e-Commerce Marketing Executive

#### THE ROLE

This is an exciting, varied role for an experienced Marketing Executive to work in a fun, friendly team. You need to be passionate about online marketing and taking an active role in all e-Commerce Marketing projects with the team.

The main responsibilities include:

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- Search Engine Optimisation and Pay Per Click activity management;
- Affiliate and partner relationship development and management;
- Creating and managing domains and microsites for the SeaFrance portfolio; and
- Assisting with the continued development of the Customer Relationship Management programme.

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**Closing Date: 1 May 2009**

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To receive an application pack please contact Home-Start Canterbury & Coastal on 01227 472050

Office@homestartcanterbury.org

Closing date: Friday 8th May Interview date: Monday 18th May

Charity No: 1010063

Home-Start is committed to equality of opportunity and diversity.

Criminal record disclosure at enhanced level will be required.



## Saint George's Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS

Tel: 01474 533082

Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC  
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Contact us to request further details and an application form.  
Email dharivallj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website

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Closing Date : 8 May 2009

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To apply please send your CV to HR Department, Fuji Seal Europe Ltd, Scimitar Close, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0RJ or alternatively you can email to jobs@uk.fujiseal.com.

Previous applicants need not apply.

Closing date: 11 May 2009

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e-mail : [admin@walmerscienceschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@walmerscienceschool.co.uk)

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Walmer Science College is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and the successful applicant will be required to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure via the CRB. For an application form and further details, please contact Mrs Windsor at the school.

Closing date: 8th May 2009



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Deadline for applications 1st May with interviews the following week.



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Status

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An information pack and application form are available from the school:  
Sandwich Technology School, Deal Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0FA

Tel: 01304 610013 Fax: 01304 610100

[www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk)

e-mail: [stella.leitner@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk](mailto:stella.leitner@sandwich-tech.kent.sch.uk)

Closing Date: Friday, 8 May 2009

The school is committed to safeguarding children and the post is subject to an enhanced disclosure check.

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For an information pack please visit [www.canterburycollege.ac.uk](http://www.canterburycollege.ac.uk) or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

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The closing date for the above posts is Monday 11th May 2009 at 12 noon



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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### ECOMERCHANT LIMITED

(In Creditors' Voluntary Liquidation)

In accordance with Rule 4.106 Andrew James Hawksworth of Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW gives notice that on 17 April 2009 he was appointed Liquidator of the Company by the members and creditors.

Notice is hereby given that Creditors of the above named Company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required before 31 May 2009, to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned Andrew James Hawksworth of Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent ME13 8JW, the Liquidator of the Company, and if so required by notice in writing, to prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default shall be excluded from the benefit of any distribution. Dated: 22 April 2009

Andrew James Hawksworth, Liquidator



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## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### June date for next B2B exhibition at Ramada

BUSINESS Representation Solutions, a support service for business sales and marketing, is holding its next B2B – business to business – exhibition on Wednesday, June 10, at the Ramada Hotel in Hollingbourne.

It's open to all business attendees free of charge. There is no membership fee or other obligation in attending the exhibition, which will start at 9.30am.

There will be a networking breakfast and lunch. To book a stand and for further information, phone 01322 278311, email [info@busrepsol.co.uk](mailto:info@busrepsol.co.uk), or visit [www.busrepsol.co.uk](http://www.busrepsol.co.uk).

### Debt recovery strategy workshop by law firm

LAW firm Furley Page is running the second of its interactive workshops tomorrow (Thursday) aimed at helping businesses create a debt recovery strategy in the recession.

In partnership with Kent Invicta Chamber, the workshop – at the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel, Maidstone – will be part seminar, part question and answer session. It starts at 8.30am, with breakfast, finishes at 11.45am, and is open to members and non-members alike.

Details on 01233 503838 or online at [www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk](http://www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk).

### Invicta's one-stop-shop

KENT Invicta Chamber of Commerce has compiled a one-stop-shop information source designed to direct companies to where help is available.

Chief executive Jo James said it had created a new section on its website at [www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk](http://www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk).

This would allow businesses to find what is on offer to help them through the recession, rebuild business plans to match circumstances and recover from problems.

The chamber covers Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells.

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Kent 2020 Vision speaker Kriss Akabusi talks to Julie Maddocks. Search 'Kriss'

# Leaner and greener in brave new world



**SEE THE LIGHT:** Seeda is managing the £2.9m pot available for low-carbon initiatives aimed at cutting costs and boosting profits

A POT of £2.9 million is available through the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) for low-carbon initiatives that it reckons will help more than 3,000 regional businesses cut costs and boost profits.

Half the money is from the European Regional Development Fund, and the other half from Seeda, which is setting up programmes covering sustainability issues and the three Rs – reduction, reuse and recycling.

It's all part of a wider range of targets, including an 89,000-tonne reduction in the growth rate of carbon dioxide emissions, a £3.2 million boost to the region's economy and the creation of hundreds of jobs.

Oona Muirhead, Seeda's executive director for skills and sustainable prosperity, said: "In these difficult economic conditions it's all the more important that we help businesses take advantage of new market opportunities in the growing global green economy."

"This is good for profit margins and employment, as well as for tackling the region's ecological footprint."

"This latest round of ERDF funding will help ensure projects that can contribute to a successful, sustainable future for the region don't fall by the wayside."

The funding forms part of the – wait for it – South East England European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness Programme 2007-13 that was approved in December 2007.

The South East was the first UK region to have the programme adopted.

A key priority will be encouraging tiny and slightly larger businesses to work together, forming groups that can benefit from better access to funding.

One of the initiatives covers training programmes for small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) – and that's most of

## BY TONY PATEY

the firms in Kent – worth some £3,500 each if they want to go sustainable.

This is probably attractive to a lot of owners because customers are becoming more aware of sustainable and environmental business practices.

However, they'll be asked to invest in their companies so policies are carried out and companies will have to meet eligibility criteria.

The funding is in the hands of PLATOGB – an offshoot of Southern Enterprise Alliance, a private not-for-profit company – and it's for a two-year business and personal development programme.

Programme director Alexandra Massey said: "In these lean times, the green issue is having more of an impact than ever."

"If the consumer has the choice, locally-sourced products with a neutral carbon footprint are winning over something that's been flown in or has a heavy carbon footprint."

"This programme is about helping local companies implement a sustainable agenda, add a positive contribution to their marketing and make a difference to their profits."

Participants can go along to free induction seminars to learn more before going on the full programme – in Kent they are on Thursday, May 21, at Ashford International Hotel, from 4.30pm to 6pm, and on Tuesday, May 26, at the Holiday Inn, Rochester, at the same times.

Details from 0845 73545.

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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



**WELL MATCHED:** Scott Appleton and Norton put on a fine display despite losing against champions VCD Athletic

## Norton measured up against the champions

### FOOTBALL

#### Norton Sports 1 VCD Athletic 2

NORTON Sports ended their first season in the Kent League with a defeat, but more than matched champions VCD Athletic on a tired looking Winch's Field.

The visitors wrapped up the title with the win, but the game gave Norton the chance to measure themselves up to the league's best.

The bumpy pitch made life difficult and the visitors' direct game turned it into a bit of a dour affair. Mid-way through the half Norton lost the ball on the half way line, allowing a VCD midfielder to try his luck from 30 yards. He totally miss-hit the shot but it found its way to Richard Sinden who

turned and drove the ball home.

The goal seemed to inspire Norton and they started to push their opponents back and created a few openings. On 35 minutes a break on the left saw Tom Price hit in a low shot to the near post which the VCD goal-keeper was slow to react to, with the ball coming off his hand and onto the post.

The resulting corner was swung in where

Frazer Rogers rose well only to see his header crash against the bar, but Scott Appleton quickly realised the ball was dropping back into play and bundled it into the net.

Half-time wasn't welcomed by Norton and the start of the second half saw VCD come out with more fight. The champions ensured the three points were theirs 12 minutes into the half when Nick Hegley's shot found its way past Paul West.

It was the end of a long season for Norton, but they finished in a respectable 11th position with a 40 point haul and will look back on the season with pleasure.

## Presentation tops off good league run

LEWIS Rivett picked up two awards as Norton Sports celebrated their first season in the Kent League.

At their annual presentation night, Rivett, who has played in a variety of positions for the club this season, picked up the Players' Player of the Year award, and shared the Manager's Player of the Year award with striker Tommy Price.

Defender Tom Nunn was crowned Supporters Player of the Year, while Price collected the Golden Boot for his 12 goals.

The club would like to thank sponsors Teynham Diveways for all their help and support throughout the season and owner Duncan Friend, who presented the awards to the winners.

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**Gills boss Mark Stimson** discusses how to deal with the lottery of the play-offs

## Sheppey close in on play-off position

AFC Sheppey head into this weekend's crunch clash at struggling Oakwood still in pole position for a play-off place in Kent County Division One East.

The islanders were without a game at the weekend allowing third-placed University of Kent to cut down the gap between to six points. After Canterbury City won the title after a 4-1 thrashing of Otford United, Sheppey's hopes of promotion are through the play-offs.

In the Premier Division, Milton & Fulston United gave their hopes of staying up a boost with a 1-1 draw at Rusthall, while Sheerness East remain bottom after a 2-1 defeat at Cray Valley.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT**  
[glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk)



Picture: IGOR KUPCO

**IN LINE:** Sheppey-born Phil Edwards, who is a product of the Kent youth system, made his County Championship debut this week after a string of players sustained injuries

# Edwards aims to build on his championship debut

### CRICKET

■ BY GLENN PEARSON

being around them and making my debut.

"I think I bowled alright, I spoke to Keysey before the game and he wanted me to do a holding job going at less than three-an-over and that's what I did, so I did my job for him. I was quite happy with how I did and was pretty unfortunate not to pick up a wicket."

With Cook and Joseph expected to be close to a comeback this week and Khan and McLaren potentially available towards the end of May, Edwards, who plays Kent League cricket at Sittingbourne side Gore Court, is aware he needs to grasp the opportunity with both hands.

He said: "I was pleased to get a go, I know there have been a few injuries in the camp so I have been given an opportunity and it is up to me to take it really. It's a long season and now that I have been given an opportunity I have to try and secure my position if I can and it's up to me to grasp it."

Edwards is a product of the Kent youth system, having progressed from the under-15 side to the second XI before he went to Cambridge University where he made his First Class debut in 2004, followed by a stint with the second XI at Sussex.

A call from Academy director Phil Relf saw him return to St Lawrence last season where he played in the second team, showing enough to be given a development contract during the winter. During the off season he benefitted from a masterclass from Australian Test legend Dennis Lillee during a pace bowling camp in Chennai. He believes that experience, combined with the help of new bowling coach Geoff Arnold, has helped in his progression.

He said: "It was a lot to take in at Chennai and was good for fitness and Dennis Lillee helped a lot, he gave me a few ideas."

"We have got Geoff Arnold with us now and it's really good having him around. He helped me before the game ensuring everything was okay and even during the game he is down on the boundary giving help, so it's been great having him around. Senior guys like Martin Saggars and Simon Cook have helped too."



# Thompson and Soutan help Town do the double

## FOOTBALL

BY GLENN PEARSON

### Faversham Town 2

Soutan 34, Thompson 51

### Herne Bay 1

Harvey 23

#### Faversham starting XI



Subs used: Thompson (Abel 20) Oyebanjo (Luchford 85) Hetterley (Soutan 70)



**PERFECT FINISH:** Substitute Craig Thompson and Dave Soutan celebrate the winning goal against Herne Bay

FAVERSHAM Town finished off their season in style with a narrow victory over rivals Herne Bay, which manager Justin Luchford hopes will give his side a springboard for next season.

The Lilywhites finished fourth in the Kent League – above their expectations – having recorded seven wins from their final eight games of the season.

Their latest came at the weekend in a 2-1 win against Herne Bay, recording a double against their rivals in the process. The visitors took a 23rd minute lead through Luke Harvey before former Bay midfielder Dave Soutan equalised almost ten minutes later. Striker Craig Thompson netted the winner, leaving boss Luchford lavishing praise on the veteran forward's performance.

"Craig Thompson came on after 20 minutes and changed the game for us," he said. "His

work rate rubbed off on everybody else and from then on it looked as if only one team were going to win."

The Faversham boss admitted the end of the season has come with a sense of relief, but Town have come a long way with Luchford in his first full season in charge of the club. After speaking with the 16 players involved in the weekend's game, he revealed that all of them will be playing for the club next season and that the momentum gained from such a good end to the season will help in the next campaign.

"People underestimate how important it is to finish the season on a high and to be honest with you I am absolutely buzzing," he said. "I am really proud of the group of players I have got and I can tell you that I have the best job in the Kent League, so the pressure is on me to get the club out of the division next season."

Town will begin pre-season training ahead of the new campaign on June 27.

## LEAGUE TABLES

### RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Kingstorian	42	26	8	8	+43	86
2 Cray Wanderers	42	24	7	11	+34	79
3 Fleet Town	42	21	15	6	+39	78
4 Metropolitan Police	42	21	14	7	+27	77
5 Worthing	42	21	13	8	+29	76
6 <b>Sittingbourne</b>	42	19	13	10	+9	70
7 Merstham	42	18	10	14	+3	64
8 Ashford Town	42	16	15	11	+14	63
9 Godalming Town	42	17	11	14	+21	62
10 Croydon Athletic	42	16	14	12	+13	62
11 Folkestone Invicta	42	16	11	15	+8	59
12 Dulwich Hamlet	42	15	15	12	+14	57
13 Eastbourne Town	42	17	6	19	-7	57
14 Walton & Hersham	42	13	11	18	-9	50
15 Leatherhead	42	14	8	20	-17	50
16 Whitstable Town	42	14	8	20	-19	50
17 Walton Casuals	42	12	8	22	-17	44
18 Whyteleafe	42	11	10	21	-16	43
19 Burgess Hill Town	42	10	13	19	-17	43
20 Corinthian-Casuals	42	11	10	21	-30	43
21 Chipstead	42	8	12	22	-39	36
22 Crowborough	42	4	4	34	-83	16

### KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

1 VCD Athletic	32	22	4	6	44	70
2 Hythe Town	32	21	4	7	32	67
3 Greenwich Borough	32	20	4	8	15	63
4 <b>Faversham Town</b>	32	20	2	10	43	62
5 Holmesdale	32	18	7	7	27	61
6 Herne Bay	32	19	3	10	18	60
7 Erith Town	32	14	10	8	20	54
8 Erith & Belvedere	32	16	5	11	17	53
9 Croydon	32	15	4	13	18	49
10 Tunbridge Wells	32	13	6	13	3	45
11 <b>Norton Sports</b>	32	12	4	16	-13	40
12 Deal Town	32	10	8	14	4	38
13 Slade Green	32	11	4	17	-13	37
14 Sevenoaks Town	32	9	4	19	-23	31
15 Beckenham Town	32	8	4	20	-22	28
16 Lordswood	32	6	3	23	-36	21
17 Sporting Bengal	32	0	0	32	-134	0

# Brickies good season ends with a dead rubber defeat

## FOOTBALL

### Leatherhead 3 Sittingbourne 0

AFTER missing out on the play-offs, Saturday's trip to Leatherhead was always going to be a dead rubber for the Brickies and so it proved.

Despite winning against Godalming last weekend, teams already in the play-offs recorded victories, ending Sittingbourne's hopes of finishing in the top five.

The visitors started brightly enough but Leatherhead never looked back when with ten minutes on the clock and with their first shot of the game they took the lead. It was 2-0 on 25 minutes and a further goal on 77 minutes sealed a well deserved win for the Tanners. It was only Sittingbourne's second league defeat away from home all season as Gary Abbott's side finished sixth in Ryman Division One South.

The club did have something to celebrate this week though, after they were awarded the FA Charter Standard Award.

The Charter Standard Scheme is the best practice guide that sets standards of coaching, administration and child protection for all clubs outside the Football League and Premier League.

Brickies chairman Andy Spice said: "This award displays the club's commitment to grass roots football in the area and it is pleasing to see that the club's hard work has been rewarded with such a prestigious award."



**SUCCESS:** Gary Abbott's side finished sixth in Ryman Division One South after an encouraging season

The club, which was formed in 1886, runs under-13, under-16 and under-18 teams and has many volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure to club has always progressed.

## RUGBY



Picture: IOR KIPRO

**FULL THROTTLE:** Sittingbourne were on top form

## Bourne edge closer to Kent Vase final after win against Erith

**Sittingbourne 45 Erith 22**

SITTINGBOURNE face Old Gravesendians for a place in the final of the Kent Vase after cruising through their semi-final against Erith at the weekend.

Having won one, and lost one against the same opponents in the league, Bourne fully expected a tough encounter. However, Bourne came out of the blocks at full throttle and scored their first converted try after only five minutes when Sam Catlin went on a mazy run and touched down under the posts. Fly-half Scott Truss was next on the board five minutes later, when a well executed move created space for him to stroll over under the posts. Bourne's supremacy in the pack allowed the backs to run riot and Sam Catlin scored his second try after 30 minutes.

Just before half-time Matt Fender scored Bourne's fourth try when centre Chris Nanson spotted the opposition full-back out of position and put in a well-judged kick for Fender to outpace the defence to score under the posts.

With Truss converting three out of four tries, Bourne went in at the break 26-0 up. Erith knew that if they were to get anything out of the match they needed to come out firing in the second half and so it proved. They started to run hard in the forwards and eventually, after five minutes, battered their way over the Bourne try-line. However, Bourne's response was swift. From a tap penalty near their own line, the ball was spread to Rob McNamara who charged downfield before popping to Catlin who went over for his hat-trick.

Erith scored the next two tries before winger Chapman and Catlin finished the scoring off.

## KENT SEVENS

### RUGBY TOURNAMENT

**SUNDAY MAY 3, 2009**



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